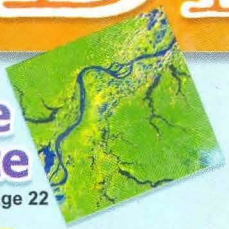
Rashtra Deepika Vol. 9 No. 11 November 2005

CHILDREN'S DIGEST



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RASHTRA DEEPIKA
CHILDREN'S DIGEST
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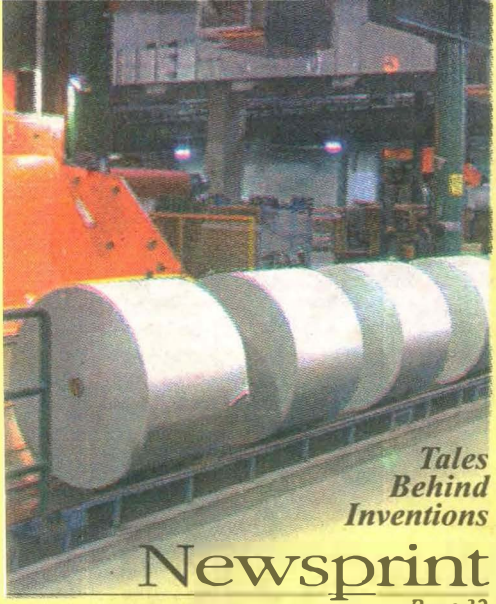
Thought for the Month

Whenever you are confronted with an opponent, conquer him with love.

-Mahatma Gandhi



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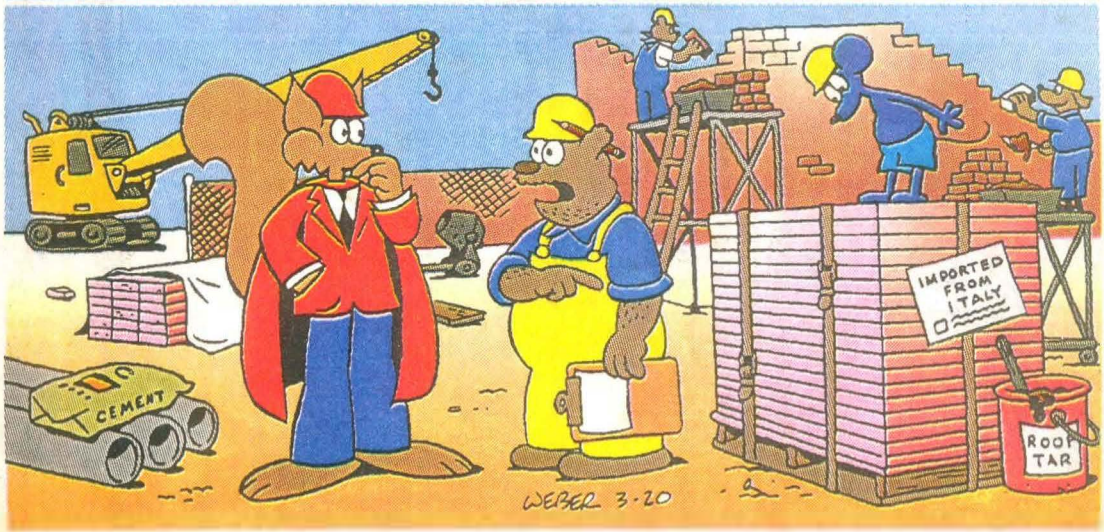
Slylock Fox



The foreman says thieves stole marble tiles from the construction site last evening. He has a new shipment of tiles and is concerned that they may be targeted by thieves tonight. Can you guess what advice Slylock Fox offered the foreman to help prevent these marble tiles from being stolen?

(See page 97)

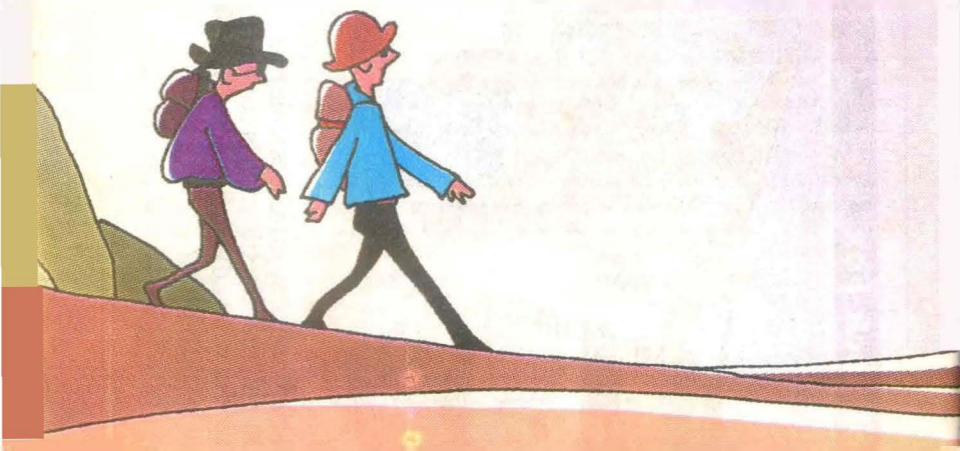
SAND OR STONE?

A story tells that two friends were walking through the desert. In a specific point of the journey, they had an argument, and one friend slapped the other one in the face.

The one who got slapped, was hurt, but without saying anything, he wrote in the sand:

"TODAY, MY BEST FRIEND SLAPPED ME IN THE FACE."

They kept on walking, until they found an oasis, where they decided to take a



bath. The one who got slapped and hurt started drowning, and the other friend saved him.

When he recovered from the fright, he wrote on a stone:

"TODAY MY BEST FRIEND SAVED MY LIFE."

The friend who saved him said,

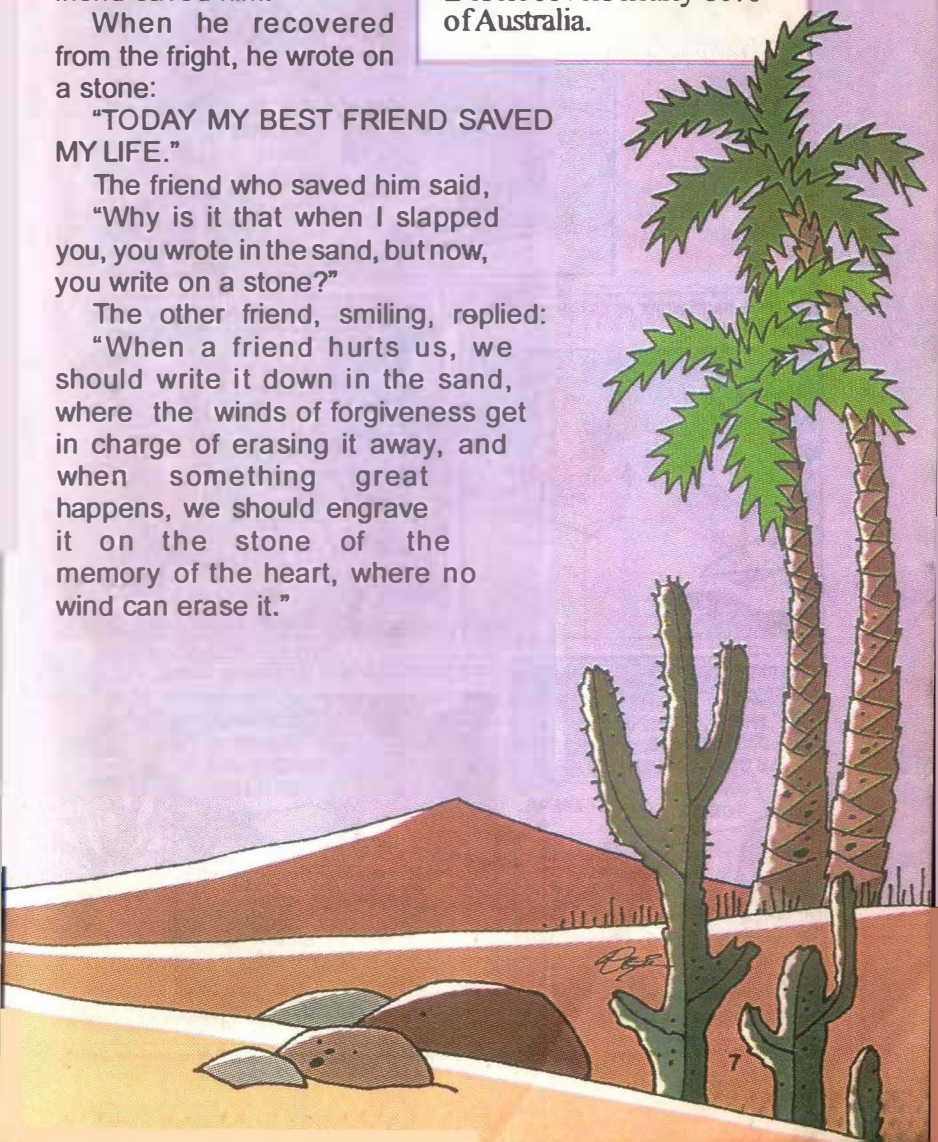
"Why is it that when I slapped you, you wrote in the sand, but now, you write on a stone?"

The other friend, smiling, replied:

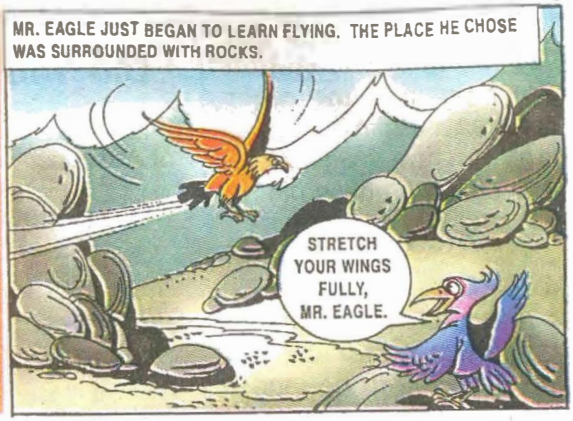
"When a friend hurts us, we should write it down in the sand, where the winds of forgiveness get in charge of erasing it away, and when something great happens, we should engrave it on the stone of the memory of the heart, where no wind can erase it."

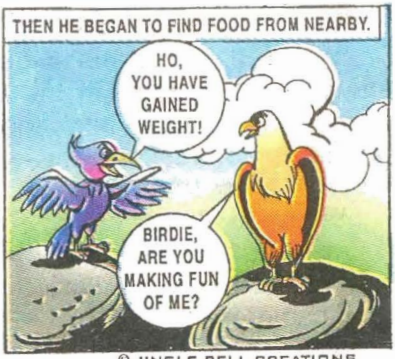
Did You Know?

Desert covers nearly 80% of Australia.



THE CLEVER EAGLE





© JINGLE BELL CREATIONS

THE VULTURE FOUGHT THE EAGLE, AND MR. EAGLE GOT HURT.
HUH!... NEVER DARE TO COME BACK.
YOU FOUGHT ME BECAUSE I CAME HERE.
THIS WON'T BE HAPPENING WHERE I STAY.
WHO SAID? WHEREVER YOU ARE, I WILL FIGHT YOU.
AHA... THEN COME TO MY PLACE, WE WILL SEE.
OKAY.
ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGE, THE VULTURE WENT TO THE EAGLE'S PLACE.
YOU...!
WITH REVENGEFUL EYES, THE VULTURE FOLLOWED THE EAGLE.
TODAY, I WILL TEACH HIM A LESSON.
JINGLE BELL CREATIONS
SUDDENLY THE EAGLE WENT STRAIGHT INTO THE ROCKS.
HUH...?
FOLLOWING THE EAGLE THE VULTURE NOSE DIVED AND HIT A ROCK AND DIED.
THIS IS WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THOSE, WHO FORGET WHO THEY ARE.

- *Santhini Govindan, Mumbai*

The Wonderful World of

Beetles

They form the largest order of animals on earth. There are more of their species on our planet than there are plant species. Their incredible ability to adapt to any environment means that these creatures will probably exist long after human beings have disappeared from the face of the earth. They are undoubtedly the most diverse group of animals in the world, and their variety, shapes, sizes, and colours have never ceased to amaze people. Can't guess what these prolific and amazingly successful creatures are called? They are called beetles!

Beetles are found in nearly every part of our

earth, in both land and fresh-water habitats, except on the continent of Antarctica and on the open sea. They can be found in logs or under bark, in fungi, in mud, in decaying plant and animal matter, in water, in stored food, in bird and mammal nests, and even in termite nests.

The word beetle comes from an old English word meaning "little biter." Beetles are insects of the order Coleoptera. The Greek scholar and philosopher Aristotle first used this name in the fourth century B.C., more than 5,000 thousand years ago! It comes from the Greek words "koleos," which means sheath (or shield), and "ptera," which means wings. The name refers to the fact that most beetles, unlike other insects, have hardened front wings, termed elytra, which cover their folded hind wings like a sheath. The elytra not only provides the beetle with extra protection, but some species are able to trap moisture on their wings and store it because the elytra protect it from the heat and wind. This has allowed some kinds of beetle to travel to deserts, where moisture is scarce, because they can

Did You Know?

The heaviest insects are the goliath beetles, which weigh up to 110 grams.

Did You Know?

Insects have three distinct body regions: the head, the thorax, and the abdomen. They have six joined legs, and a tough outer skeleton called an exoskeleton. Most insects have wings at some stage during their life.

Insects have no veins: blood flows freely around the body.

Did You Know?

If all the animals on earth were weighed, ants would make up 10 percent of the total.

carry their own water with them. Some beetles can even live under water because they are able to trap air in their wings and keep it under the elytra.

Beetles may have smooth or very hairy bodies. Most beetles are dark brown or black, but many are red, blue, green, purple, metallic gold or bronze or a combination of several colours. There are metallic green fig beetles, lightning beetles that glow in the dark, and huge horned beetles that resemble miniature rhinos!

Beetles are found in sizes ranging from less than one hundredth of an inch to tropical giants well over eight inches long! The antennae of some beetles are much longer than their bodies. These interesting insects have three pairs of legs, which can be used for swimming, digging, running or grasping.

Beetles hatch from eggs. They undergo a complete metamorphosis as they pass through four distinct stages - egg, larva, pupa, and finally, adult. An egg hatches into a larva, which is also sometimes called a grub. A grub generally looks like a soft white worm curved in a "C" shape, but can also look like a tiny lizard or insect. Grubs eat underground compost, and in many South East Asian countries, protein rich grubs form a nutritional part of peoples' diets.

There are thousands of varieties of beetles, each with their own peculiar characteristics, appearance and abilities. The Sap beetle is commonly called a

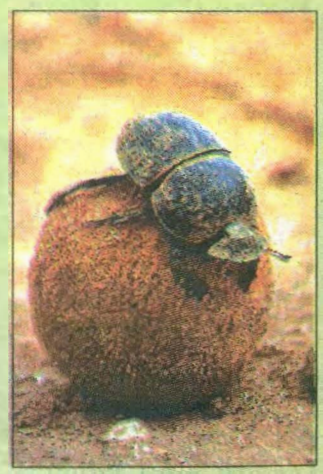
Sap beetle

"picnic beetle" in the USA because this insect is attracted to the scent of alcohol, and is a frequent, if uninvited guest at summer parties where beer and wine are served! The Tortoise or Shield Beetle, a tropical leaf beetle exhibits unusual behavior patterns. Adult beetles look after their young ones, which is uncommon among beetles. Adult male beetles fight viciously with one another, even tearing holes in competitor's wings when it is time to win a mate. One of the most amazing of all beetles is the Hercules beetle, found in the rain forests of Central America. This spectacular beetle that can fly has two enormous curved horns and looks like a prehistoric creature.

Leaf beetle

Hercules beetle

One of the most interesting of all beetles are the scarab dung beetles. These beetles, called "tumblebugs" in the USA, are nature's janitors, and they live on animal excrement, or dung. Though this sounds rather distasteful, these beetles are in fact, vital to our world's eco system because they help to clean up the environment, and to fertilize the soil. These beetles collect and bury dung in many ways. Some species of scarabs form a ball, much bigger than themselves, out of dung, and roll the ball until they find a spot that they like. They dig a hole under the ball until it drops down and is buried.



Adult beetle rolling its ball of dung to a suitable place for burial.

Did You Know?

For many species of caterpillar, the first meal is their own egg shell. It is thought that the shell contains vital food substances.

This ball then provides food for these scavengers, who eat more than their own weight in one day!

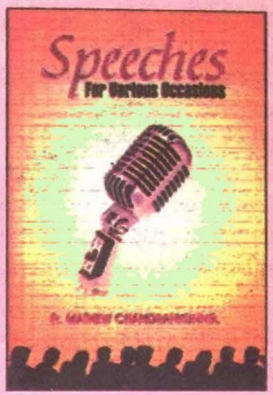
The ancient Egyptians thought of the sacred scarab, a dung-eating beetle, as a holy animal, and worshipped it. They saw the beetles disappear into the earth, and later come back out as if reborn. The Egyptians believed that the revolving balls of dung scarabs pushed around, represented the rotation of the earth, which was controlled by a celestial scarab. In ancient Egypt, the scarab beetle was used as a symbol of the sun because of its circular shape and bright golden colours.

Egyptians believed that the scarab was one of the forms under which their sun god appeared. When the beetles rolled the ball of dung along the ground, the ancient Egyptians thought it was like the sun crossing over the earth during each day. In Egypt, the scarab beetle's form was often carved on precious stones and worn as beads or other jewelry. These carvings were used as good luck charms by royalty, or were used to keep away evil. Official seals were made in the shape of beetles too. The scarab figure can also be seen carved on Egyptian monuments, and ancient tombs.

Tiger beetle

Another unusual species of beetle is the ferocious tiger beetle. These beetles as their name suggests, are predators that ambush and eat up other insects and small creatures.

Book Review



Speeches for Various Occasions

By Fr. Mathew Chandrankunnel, M.A. (Pol. Sc.), M.A. (Litt.)

Publishers: *Carmel International Publishing House, Trivandrum, Kerala - 695014, India.*

Price: *Rs 45 US $ 4.95*

Leadership is intrinsically linked to the ability for public speaking. A person who does not have the gift of public speaking will make a poor leader. *Speeches for Various Occasions* is a collection of short speeches prepared for different situations. Children are the main target group.

About 2,300 species of tiger beetles exist worldwide. They live everywhere there is land, with the exception of Antarctica, Tasmania, and some of the remote oceanic islands. Tiger beetles may be recognized by their swift alert actions, antennae that arise from the top of the head, and long spindly legs, which hold the body well off the ground.

Tiger beetles who are excellent runners, vary in size. The smallest ones live in Borneo and are about the length of a housefly. The largest lives in southern Africa and measures up to 45 millimetres. Tiger beetles come in many colours. Some are plain black, but others are decorated in metallic green, brown, maroon, or purple, and are even adorned with stripes or spots!

All tiger beetles have long, thin mandibles shaped like sickles, which help them capture prey. The Australian tiger beetle takes the prize for being the fastest runner of all the arthropods, a group that includes all insects, crustaceans, and arachnids. This beetle can move at nine kilometres per hour! The state of Arizona in the U.S. is famous for its variety of tiger beetles - the state is home to 36 different varieties!

Bombardier beetle

Lady bird

The Bombardier beetle, found in the jungles of the Philippines raises its rear ends and emits a cloud of offensive gas as a defense against potential enemies. Blister beetles contain a powerful caustic chemical known as cantharidin, which is capable of producing large, watery blisters and intense burning when it comes in contact with the skin. Click beetles are fun to watch because when they are disturbed, they freeze and drop to the ground, and they lie motionless on their backs waiting for the intruder to go away. When the beetle feels safe, it "clicks" and sails through the air where it does a quick flip, lands on its belly, and scurries to safety.

The lady bird, with its distinctive red and black spotted body also belongs to the beetle family. This bug is commonly found in all our gardens.

Click beetle

Some beetles also emit light. During the building of the Panama Canal, a doctor performed an emergency operation using the light given off by a large luminous click beetle because all other sources of light had failed! The shiny wing covers of metallic wood-boring beetles were collected in their thousands and used by the ancient Incas to make ceremonial costumes. The ladies of Sri Lanka, in olden times captured and bred beetles that emitted light or glowed. These were used as decorations in their hair, or were attached to their clothing on special occasions. These living jewels probably had a small chain attached to one of their legs, and this was anchored to the clothing to prevent their escape! Afterwards, the insects were bathed, fed, and housed in decorative cages. Living jeweled beetles have also been worn and kept as pets in Mexico.

The striking and colourful appearance of the beetle has meant that it has been used for personal adornment, both in its live and preserved state. Colourful beetles are used for jewelry and pins, and shiny tropical scarab beetles are strung together to make unusual necklaces.

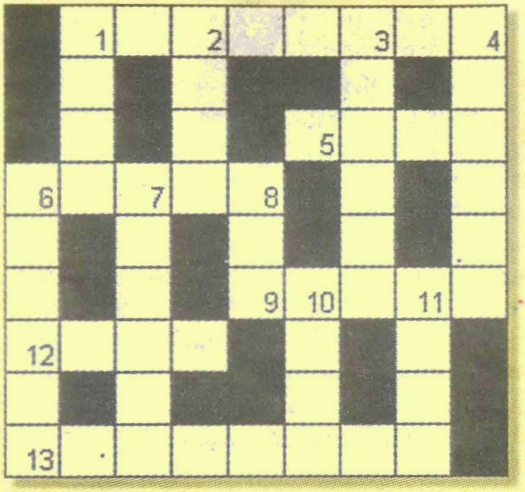
Did You Know?

Fireflies and lightning bugs are neither flies nor bugs. They are beetles.

Beetle jewellery is found in many places around the world, from the Amazon basin to Northern Thailand, in Australia, the Highlands of New Guinea, in Mexico and Central America, in the West Indies, and among the Naga tribes of India. Some jewel beetles are now protected species in several countries, and it is illegal to trap or kill them. Fine and rare species are often highly prized by collectors and museums. Many of the large attractive species of beetle find their way into the exotic pet trade. Did you know that Japan breeds beetles commercially as pets?

Crossword

- K. S. Geethavani, Coimbatore



Across:

1. Front part of the brain (8)
5. Totals (4)
6. Large wading bird, like the crane or heron (5)
9. ———— makes waste (5)
12. Enclosure with bars for keeping animals or birds (4)
13. Renew or restore to a good condition (8)

Down:

1. Young male horse (4)
2. Make a deep sound, like a lion (4)
3. 2 x ———— = diameter (of a circle) (6)
4. Hindu: Temple as Muslim : ———— (6)
6. Football (6)
7. Chemical element, symbol O (6)
8. Kilometres per hour (3)
10. ———— mater - school or college attended by a person (4)
11. Time and ——— wait for no man (4)

(See page 97)

THE SHRINE AT MADURAI

The city of Madurai is synonymous with the temple of Goddess Meenakshi and her consort Lord Sundareswara.

The temple is an excellent specimen of south Indian architecture. Though the Pandya rulers of the 12th century began the construction of the temple, many individuals and rulers have contributed to its design and construction, which was spread over several years. The temple is a combination of several styles of architecture.

The sanctum of Lord Sundareswara and Goddess Meenakshi were built by Kulasekhara Pandya.

The temple is adorned by 13 *gopurams* on all four sides, which are known for their elegance and beauty. They were erected during the course of four centuries, starting with the 13th century. Among the *gopurams* in the inner periphery, the one in the southern end is the most striking in appearance. The *gopurams* are full of stucco figures, some of which are unique.

The figure of Mahasadasiva Murti on one *gopuram* portrays Lord Siva with 25 faces. The faces are arranged in a pyramidal order. The base row has nine faces, the next seven, and so on up to the apex, with a single face.

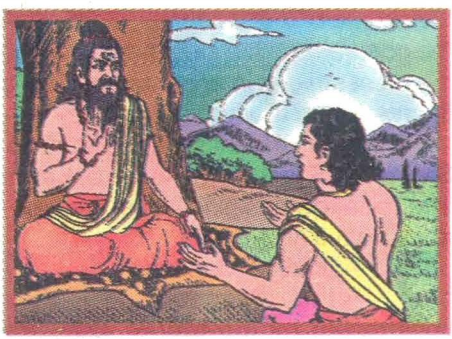
The Ayirankal Mandapa and Puthu Mandapa, constructed by the Nayak kings are full of beautiful sculptures. The figures of Ravana lifting Mount Kailasa, and the marriage of Meenakshi with Sundareswara are worth mentioning. The musical pillars in the Ayirankal *Mandapam* are a perfect example of the artisanship of those times.

STORY OF INDIA

THE SECRET OF RESURRECTION - I

Long ago, the gods and demons were constantly battling for supremacy over the three worlds. But the demons had an advantage; their guru, Shukracharya, knew the *Sanjeevani* hymn which could bring the dead back to life. He used it to bring back the demons killed in battle to life. The gods did not know this hymn.

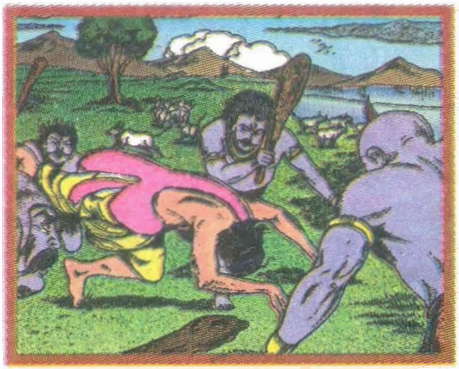
Brihaspati, the guru of the gods, had a son named Kacha who was a brilliant scholar. The gods sent him to Shukracharya. His mission was to somehow make Shukracharya reveal the secret *Sanjeevani* hymn.



Kacha enrolled himself as Shukracharya's pupil. His intelligence and humility soon endeared him to his guru. Shukracharya's daughter, Devayani, also became fond of him and the two became good friends.

Seeing their guru's love for Kacha, the demons became jealous of him. Soon, they began to suspect that the real reason for his arrival was to learn the secret hymn. Concluding that it was dangerous to let him stay on with Shukracharya, they hatched a conspiracy to kill him.

One day, as Kacha was leading his guru's cattle to graze in the meadow, the demons fell upon him and slew him. However, their plot was not destined to succeed. Devayani came in search of Kacha and was horrified to see him lying dead.



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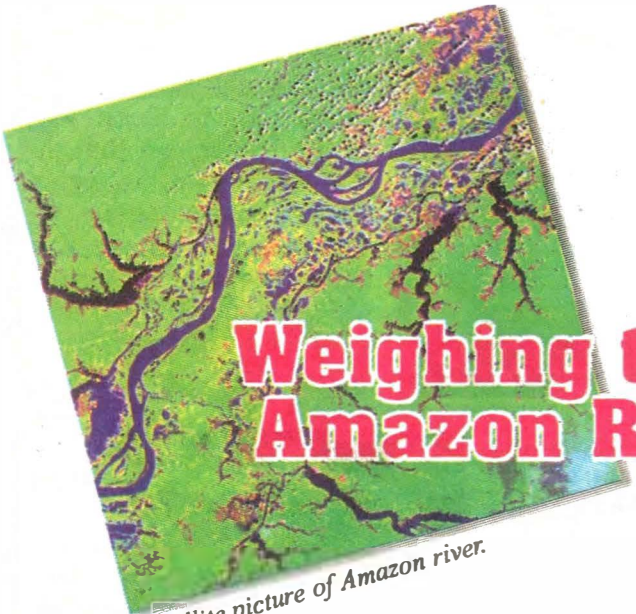
Devayani pleaded with her father to restore life to her friend. Shukracharya readily agreed. He chanted the *Sanjeevani* and brought Kacha back to life.

(To continue...)

Science Update

-P. G.



Weighing the Amazon River

Satellite picture of Amazon river.

Philip F. Schewe and Ben Stein wrote in the American Institute of Physics Bulletin that the weighing of the Amazon river has been accomplished by watching the rise and fall of the Earth's crust with a Global Positioning Service (G.P.S) unit over several years as the river floods and drains during its seasonal cycles.

Solid State Super Capacitors

A new type of solid state device prepared by scientists at UCLA may provide a better method for backing up memory information on a computer in case of a power failure. A capacitor is an electrical component for storing electrical energy, in the form of negatively and positively charged opposing electrodes. Its ability to do this is measured in units of farads. As a quick energy storage platform, a super capacitor can charge or discharge in a time of mere microseconds to seconds whereas batteries take

minutes to hours. Also super capacitors have the advantage of being much smaller in size.

Poetry Better than Prose to activate the Brain

According to research released by Scottish scientists, poetry is more beneficial than prose. The latest studies using brain-imaging technology also reveals greater levels of cerebral activity when people are listening to poems being read aloud. So, poetry is to be listened to, as Robert Frost, the great poet, observed: "The ear does it. The ear is the only true writer and the only true reader." ■

Did You Know?

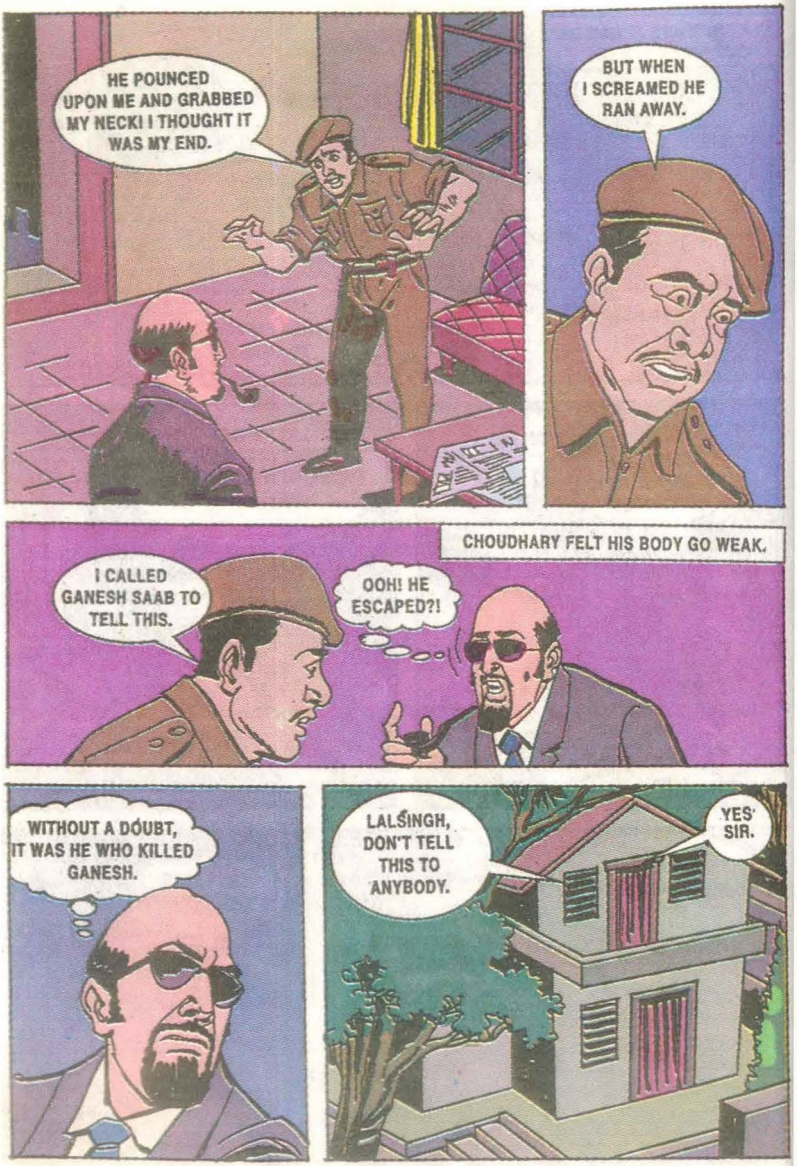
The word "dollar" has its origins in the Roman Empire. The $ sign was designed in 1788 by Oliver Pollock, a New Orleans businessman, using a combination of Spanish money symbols.

Did You Know?

The first submarine was designed in 1578 by William Bourne, a British mathematician. But it was only in 1620 that Cornelius van Drebbel, a Dutch inventor, managed to build a submarine. He wrapped a wooden rowboat tightly in waterproofed leather and had air tubes with floats to the surface to provide oxygen. Of course, there were no engines yet, so the oars went through the hull in leather gaskets. He took the first trip with 12 oarsmen in the Thames River - staying submerged for 3 hours.

GORILLA PALACE

NEXT MORNING AT RAM DAS CHOUDHARY'S HOUSE.
SIR, BAD NEWS! GANESH SAAB...!
WHAT HAPPENED TO GANESH?
HE MET AN ACCIDENT. HE IS NO MORE!
OH NO!
LAST NIGHT I SPOKE TO HIM OVER PHONE. HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN?
YOU CALLED GANESH LAST NIGHT? WHY?
AT NIGHT I HEARD SOMETHING IN THE BUNGALOW.
THEN I SAW A HUGE GORILLA!


HE POUNCED UPON ME AND GRABBED MY NECK! I THOUGHT IT WAS MY END.
BUT WHEN I SCREAMED HE RAN AWAY.
CHOUDHARY FELT HIS BODY GO WEAK.
I CALLED GANESH SAAB TO TELL THIS.
OOH! HE ESCAPED?!
WITHOUT A DOUBT, IT WAS HE WHO KILLED GANESH.
LALSINGH, DON'T TELL THIS TO ANYBODY.
YES SIR.

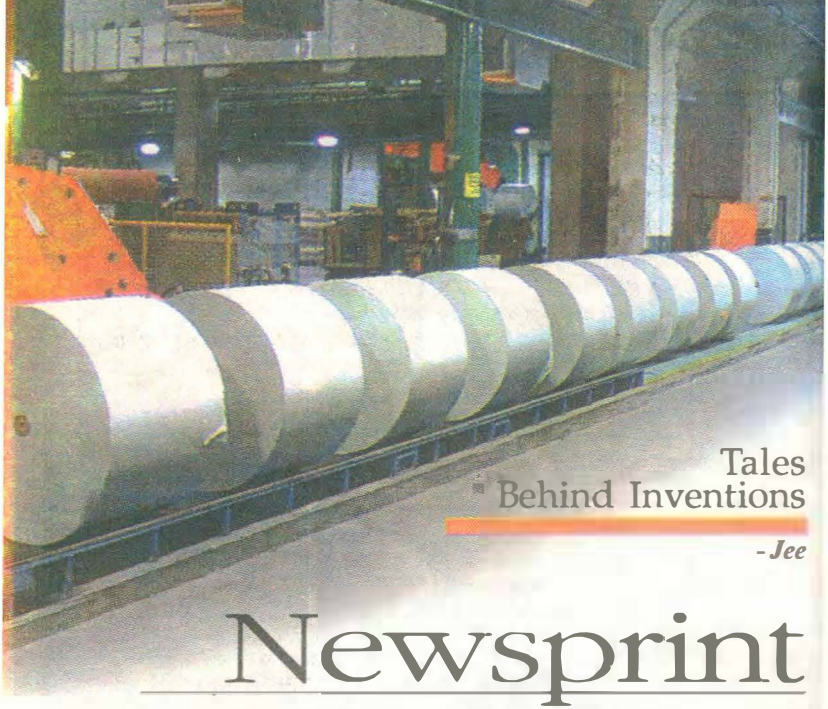
NEXT DAY AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS-
INSPECTOR, ANY NEWS ABOUT GOPAL SHANKAR?
NO, SIR.
©JINGLE BELL CREATIONS
AS PER REPORT GANESH CHAND'S DEATH IS NOT A MERE ACCIDENT.
YES.
EXTRAORDINARILY LARGE FOOTPRINTS WERE FOUND BESIDE HIS BODY.
THAT NIGHT-
STD ISD

A TELEPHONE BOOTH IN THE TOWN-
THE PHONE-BELL WOKE UP RAM DAS CHOUDHARY.
HELLO...
ANY MORE PROBLEMS?
HELLO..
NOBODY IS SPEAKING.

HEY! WHO ARE YOU? DISTURBING A MAN AT MIDNIGHT?
IN REPLY SOMEBODY GROWLED.
GRRR...
UH!
CHOUDHARY DID NOT BOTHER ABOUT IT.
HE DRIFTED TO SLEEP.
HUH! SOME RASCAL PLAYING GAMES.
SOON-
CRASH
HEY! WHO?

GRRR...
MY GOD!
RAM DAS OPENED THE DOOR AND RAN OUT.
I MUST ESCAPE BEFORE HE CATCHES ME.
HIS CAR SPED INTO THE DARK NIGHT.

OOH! WHERE SHOULD I GO? IF HE FINDS ME...
HEMA'S HOUSE-
I WILL HIDE HERE. HE MAY NOT COME HERE.
CHOUDHARY'S ASSISTANT, HEMA-
SIR, WHAT'S THE MATTER?
HEMA, HE IS HUNTING FOR ME.
© JINGLE BELL CREATIONS
OH NO! I WILL INFORM THE POLICE.
NO! THEN IT WILL BE MORE DANGEROUS.
(To be continued)



Tales Behind Inventions

-*Jee*

Newsprint

With the spread of literacy and more and more people taking to reading, the demand for books and newspapers kept increasing. Handmade paper could no longer meet the rising demand. Alternative sources of paper had to be found, and it was through the efforts of a Canadian teenager called Charles Fenerty that this was finally accomplished.

Charles Fenerty (1821-1892) grew up on his family's large farm near the town of Sackville, in the province of Nova Scotia. The family ran three old-fashioned sawmills, and the mechanical aspects of the operations fascinated the youth, who was aware of the difficulty in obtaining a regular supply of rags, used at that time to produce paper. Observant and curious by temperament, he took up the challenge of finding a means of producing paper from wood.

He watched the movement of the heavy wooden frames in which the saws were fixed

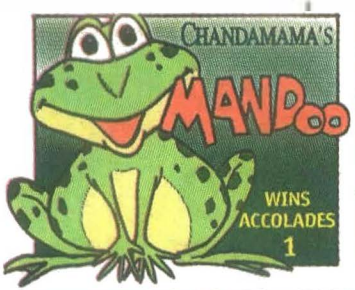
as they lifted and fell within a wooden slide. The constant friction of wood on wood during the rising and falling motion produced a small quantity of fuzzy material, and Fenerty realized that this fibre could be utilized to make paper if it were flattened and shaped.

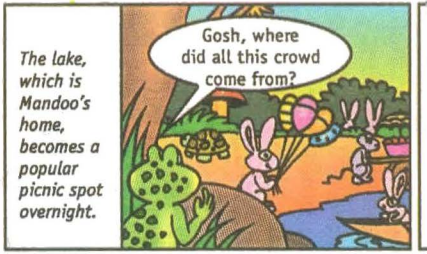
Charles Fenerty

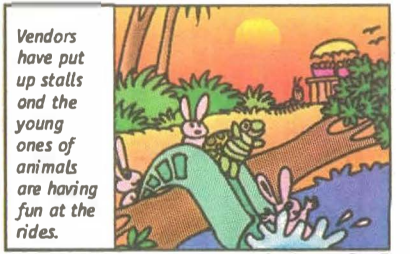
Fenerty showed a small sample of his "pulp paper," to his family, friends and neighbours, but none of them grasped the importance of what he had achieved. However, he sent a sample of the pulp paper, along with a letter, to a local newspaper, The Acadian Recorder , which was published on 26th October 1844. Unfortunately for Fenerty, around the same time his letter was published, a similar process was patented by a German paper-maker called Friedrich Keller. Poor Fenerty thus lost his chance to fame and fortune.

As far as is known, Charles Fenerty didn't invent anything further. But he was a remarkable character in many ways. He was a poet of note, a social worker, a temperance activist, and a vocal opponent of tobacco. In character Charles Fenerty was a benign and reflective man, but somewhat eccentric in his habits. He would often leave his horse and buggy behind somewhere far off and walk home, quite forgetting that he had started off in a carriage! In spite of all this however, he was well regarded by his neighbours, and is remembered today as Sackville's most famous son.

Even a minor bike accident can be serious if your head is unprotected. Always wear a helmet!







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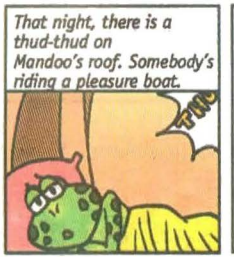
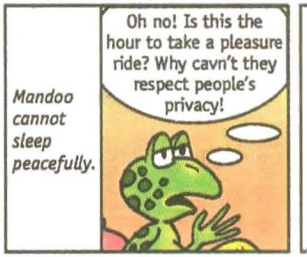
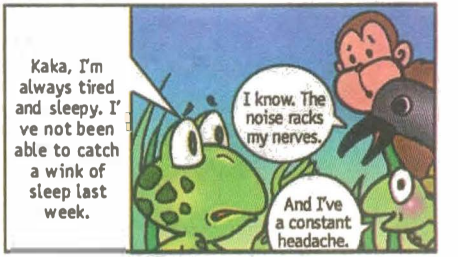
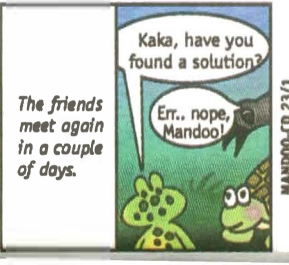
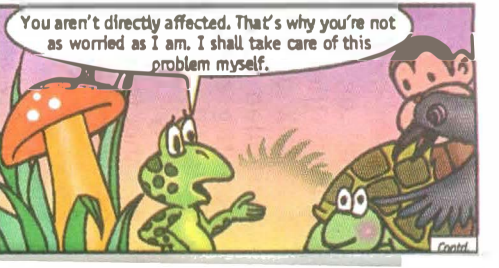





Kaka, I'm always tired and sleepy. I've not been able to catch a wink of sleep last week.
I know. The noise racks my nerves.
And I've a constant headache.





MANDOO-CD 23/1

It is snack time for Mandoo. He is busily lapping up the mosquitoes and dragon flies that fly past him.

Two young rats are paddling by in a canoe. It is dark and they do not notice Mandoo. Their oar hits Mandoo on his head.

THUD

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Splash! Mandoo falls into the water.

Hey, you unruly fellows! Don't you have the courtesy to apologise?

I'll teach you an unforgettable lesson.

Next day, Mandoo packs up his things and moves to the far end of the lake. This area is thick with water plants and weeds.

Let anybody try to get past this mesh of roots. They'll be trapped all right.

Mandoo, you are simply great!

Mandoo is pleased with himself.

That evening, a young rat sneaks a lonely ride in a boat.

MANDOO-CD-2172

He soon steers towards the weeds and is entangled in the mesh.

Oh no! I'm stuck.

Contd.

- *R. K. Murthi, New Delhi*

GOOD TIMES ARE NOT FOREVER

It was a fine sunny day. Rays of the sun ran into pools and made the water shimmer. They dropped down branches of trees and formed patterns of light and shade on the grassy plain.

An ant looked out of its anthill. The bright sunlight cheered it. "Oh God! What a fine day! I shall not waste this day. I shall put it to good use. I shall roam around. I am sure I will find some food. If it is too huge for me to drag to my anthill, I shall get hold of more worker ants. Together we shall take the food to our place. Some will push, some will pull and some others will heave. We will not rest till we deliver the food packet at our anthill," it told itself, scurrying out, often thrusting out its small but sharp antennae to smell for food.

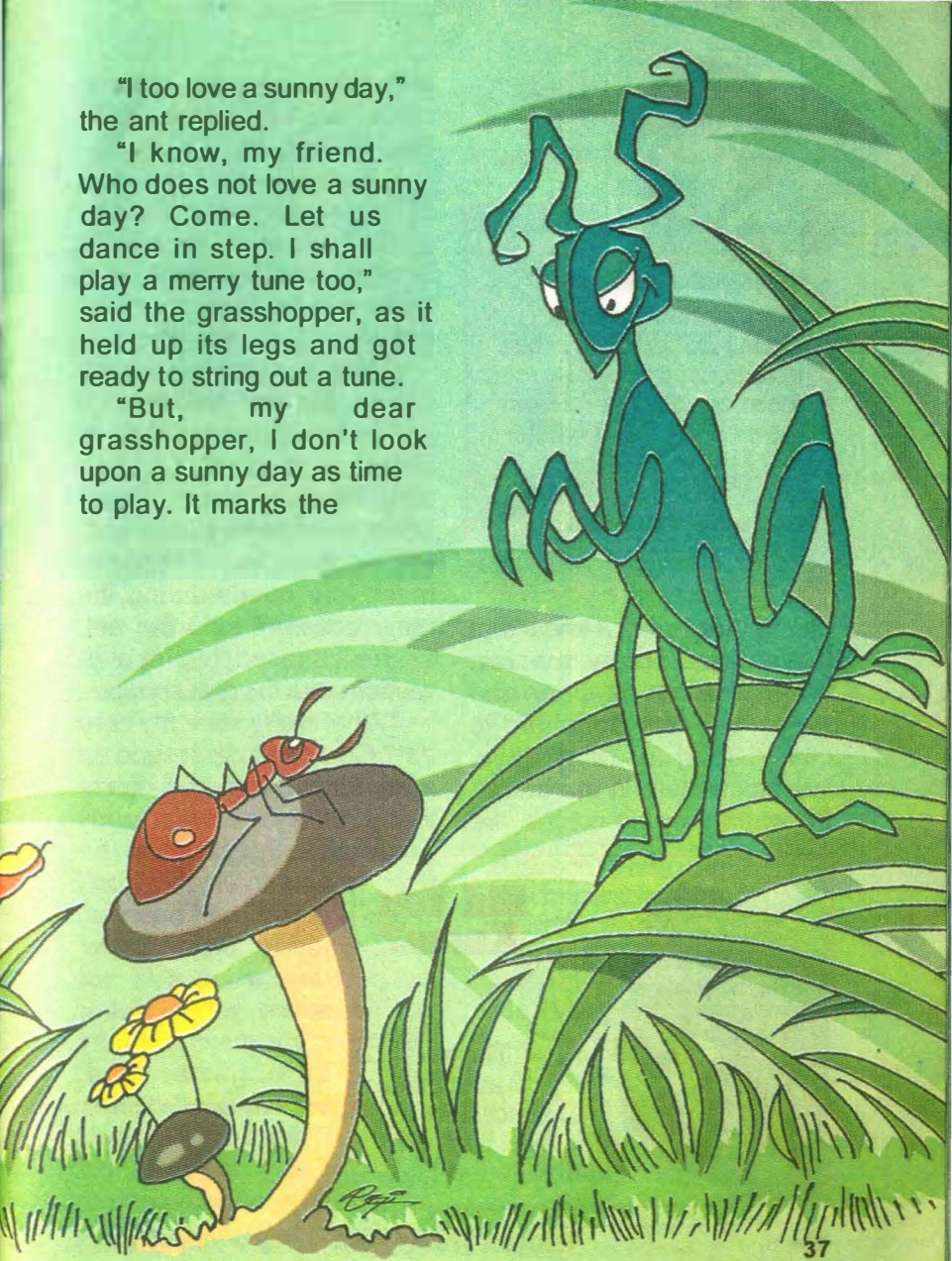
"Good Morning, Ant," said a voice. The ant heard the greetings and turned around.

"I am here, your friend, the grasshopper. I am having fun time, skipping from one place to another, jumping and dancing in the warm sunlight. Oh! How I love sunny days!" the grasshopper brought its front legs together to beat out a merry tune.

"I too love a sunny day," the ant replied.

"I know, my friend. Who does not love a sunny day? Come. Let us dance in step. I shall play a merry tune too," said the grasshopper, as it held up its legs and got ready to string out a tune.

"But, my dear grasshopper, I don't look upon a sunny day as time to play. It marks the



Did You Know?

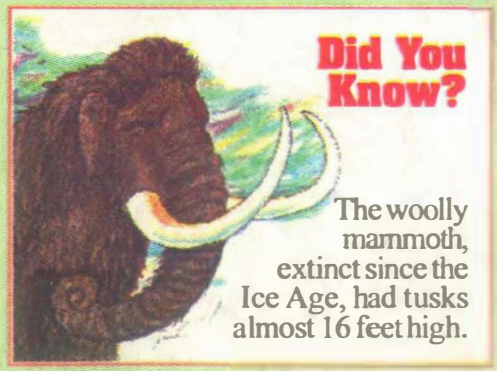
The German physicist Daniel Gabriel Fahrenheit invented the alcohol thermometer in 1709 and the mercury thermometer in 1714. In 1724 he introduced the temperature scale that bears his name.

day for hard work. I know that it won't be sunny forever. When the day is clear and sunny, we ants work hard to collect food for rainy days. We stack them in the anthill. So when the rain comes, we still have enough food in stock," said the ant, its head held up proudly.

"Work is all that you think of," grumbled the grasshopper unhappily, because it had hoped to have fun time in the company of the ant.

"Well, my friend, take my advice. Go and find food. If you find a rich source of food, collect as much of it as you can. Stock it in your home. Then, when sunny days end, you will have enough food to meet your needs during the rainy season," said the ant, as he shared a piece of wisdom with the grasshopper.

"What a silly idea, my dear ant? Can one frisk around on a rainy day? Can one dance in the grass on a wet cloudy day? Today is the time to enjoy. I won't miss it. I will have fun today. Some other day, when it is not sunny, yet not wet or rainy, may be, I may try to gather food. But I wonder whether I need to do that. Every day is a new day; and God shall



provide me every day," the grasshopper sounded quite sure that it need not worry about the future.

"I think God provides for those who work hard. He never feeds an idler. Listen, my friend, work today, so that your tomorrow will be safe," the ant gave a final tip, before adding, "Ah, I can't stay here and argue with you all day long. I have to get going. Hope you think again on what I said and work today to gather food for the future." It then hurried away.

"I have never seen a more foolish living thing than the ant. It knows no rest. Always at work, ever thinking of the future, never taking time to enjoy the present," thought the grasshopper, as it started skipping around merrily.

The ant located a dead beetle. It was quite big. The ant knew it could not drag the beetle back to the anthill. So it hurried back to the anthill. On the way it met a few other ants. The ant told them where the dead beetle was. "Over there, close to the bush," it told the others. They all moved toward the bush. The ant ran back to get more help. It led a large group of ants to the beetle. They soon surrounded it. They used

How are Hurricanes Named?

Hurricane names are chosen from a list selected by the World Meteorological Organization. The Atlantic is assigned six lists of names, with one list used each year. Every sixth year, the first list begins again. Each name on the list starts with a different letter, for example, the name of the very first hurricane of the season starts with the letter **A**, the next starts with the letter **B**, and so on. The letters "Q", "U", "X", "Y" and "Z", however, are not used.

Often when an unusually destructive hurricane hits, that hurricane's name is retired and never used again. Since 1954, forty names have been retired. In 1996 Hurricane Luis was retired.

Did You Know?

Somalia is the only country in the world where all the citizens speak one language, Somali.

their mouths to get a firm hold. Some of them pushed, some of them pulled. Others heaved and shoved. It was hard work. But the ants did not give up. When one group got tired, another group replaced it. By noon, they had dragged the beetle all the way to the anthill. The ants did not take a break even then. They worked like mad. They worked all day long. Finally, a little before sunset they managed to get the beetle to the entrance of the anthill. Then began more hard work, as they struggled till at last the beetle was finally taken in to the storehouse.

The queen ant congratulated the ants for the hard work. "Another batch of ants had managed to find a dead cockroach and bring it home. A third group had laid their hands on a dead lizard. Today has been a rich and rewarding day. We have gathered so much food to feed us for at least a fortnight," said the queen ant, sounding quite pleased.

The next few days were sunny. The ants worked hard. Soon they had enough food in stock to last them for a few

Quiz

of the Month

- Prof. NGJ

1. Who said "I know I have the body of a weak and feeble woman. But I have the heart and stomach of a king; and a king of England too"?
2. Which is the National Flower of Columbia?
3. Who was the first athlete to win two Olympic Marathons?
4. A very popular present day number puzzle is 'Su Do Ku'. What is the meaning of this Japanese name?
5. Which incident in the freedom struggle of India

months, enough food to feed them during the long rainy season.

So when the clouds covered up the sky and it began to rain, the ants stayed in their anthill, sitting around, playing games, happy because they would not starve.

Alas! When the rains came, the grasshopper had nothing to eat.

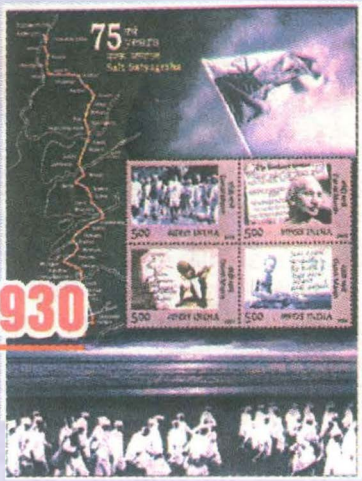
"If only I had taken the advice of the ant!" the grasshopper groaned. "I now know that good times are not forever. One has to be ready to face bad times. And the best time to get ready for bad days is when it is bright and sunny." ■

is associated with General Reginald E. H. Dyer?

6. Who is the only person to have won a Nobel Prize and an Oscar?
7. Which country received the George Cross award in recognition of the gallantry of its inhabitants in World War II?
8. Where can you find the famous painting "Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden" by Titian?
9. Which ancient architect is associated with the Step Pyramid of Egypt?
10. Name the person in Greek mythology who perished by flying too near to the Sun with waxen wings.
11. Which railway line in India was first included in the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites?
12. Which element discovered in 1898 was named in honour of the native land of one of its discoverers?
13. The picture shows the National Flag of the USA which is popularly known as "the Stars and Stripes". What do the Stars and Stripes represent?

(See page 97)

- Prof. George John Nidhiry



Dandi March - 1930

Mahatma Gandhi started the historic Dandi March from the Sabarmati Ashram on March 12, 1930. It reached Dandi, on the Gujarat coast on April 6. Seventy-eight volunteers accompanied Gandhiji.

The British exercised a monopoly on the production, distribution and sale of salt and the British government had imposed the Salt Tax. According to Gandhiji, to tax salt, was to deprive the common man of his basic necessities. At Dandi, Gandhiji picked up a small lump of natural salt, thereby giving the signal to defy the law. Thus started the Salt Satyagraha and the Civil Disobedience Movement. Thousands of volunteers were put into jail and on May 4, 1930, Gandhiji was also arrested. To commemorate the 75th anniversary of these events, the Department of Posts issued four stamps and a miniature sheet.

Endangered Species - The Gorilla

The Gorilla is the closest

to humans in physical appearance and intellectual capacity. The fur of the Gorilla is brownish-black in colour. Sexually mature males have a prominent crest on the top of the skull; and the colour of the hairs on the back will change to grey or silver. Gorillas live in stable family groups of six to thirty. The group will be led by one, two, or more males that are related to each other, usually a father and his sons. Gorillas have become increasingly rare due to loss of habitat and the United Nations (1993) and Germany (2001) have issued stamps on Gorillas.

Carnivorous Plants - USA

They are also called insectivorous plants. They capture insects and other tiny animals. The insects are subjected to the decomposing action of digestive enzymes. Most of these plants are green plants that manufacture food by photosynthesis. The carnivorous habit supplements the diet derived from their environment. Recently the USA issued four stamps on some carnivorous plants. The Venus Flytrap uses the leaves consisting of two parts hinged together. The leaf will shut when an insect touches the inner surface, trapping the insect. The Yellow Trumpet uses a trap, like a trumpet and the nectar glands inside. The Cobra Lily uses the hood shaped leaves and the nectar inside, while the English Sundew uses the active tentacles to trap the insects.

MAGIC PENCIL

As Rajam entered the class he found a big crowd of students around David's desk. "Must be showing off another of his imported gifts," thought Rajam.

David was the son of a rich man and every now and then he brought his toys and other things to school to show off. He was not good in studies. He loved playing pranks on fellow students and made them do tasks for him.

Rajam still remembered the first time when he became a victim of one of David's pranks. It was when David got a beautiful imported pen from

his uncle and he brought it to school. He showed it to Rajam and said, "See, my new pen. It writes so smoothly that you wouldn't get tired even if you write a whole *Bible* with it." When Rajam asked for it, David said, "All right, if you let me copy your notes then I'll let you touch it." Rajam gave him his notes. After copying them, David gave him his pen but as soon as Rajam started to write with it David snatched it from him and said, "Hey! I only said I'll let you touch it. You have now touched it. So give it back to me."

Rajam couldn't forget that incident till date. Rajam saw that today again David was making a fool of some boy. He made the poor boy do his homework but didn't let him play with his new video-game. Suddenly an idea got into Rajam's mind and he thought of giving David a dose of his own medicine.

It was the turn of their class to go camping the next day. When everybody reached the camping place, Rajam took out a pencil from his pocket and said to the other boys, "Hey! Everyone, see I have this magic pencil with me. It can write in any colour. All I need to do is to shout the name of the colour and it obeys my order." Everyone started looking at the pencil curiously. David

The Lost Dream

Dreaming for an endless night
Craving a bed with dreams
Wishing never the sun sight
I lay on my bed with
my dreams.
But alas! the morning dawned
My dreams - all its
sweetness gone
with the streaks of sun dawn
trickled my face as
rays dropped.

- Nijith Jacob, Pattarumadathil, Old Seminary Ward, Chungom, Kottayam - 686001.

thought, "There is a painting competition next week. I must have that pencil; it'll make my task easier."

He said to Rajam, "Give the pencil to me and I'll pay you its full price."

"No, no. This pencil is priceless, it's a magic pencil. Why should I give it to you?" said Rajam. On hearing this David started pleading, "Please, Rajam, I want this pencil, I'll do anything you say."

"Okay! But first you fix up all the tents for us, fetch wood and set up the campfire, then make our beds. If you do all these then I'll give you this pencil."

David quickly agreed. By the time he finished everything he was terribly tired. He took the pencil from Rajam and went to his tent. Then he took a paper and holding the pencil he shouted pink and scribbled but all he got from the pencil was that usual charcoal colour. He tried a few more times shouting a different colour each time but the result was the same. He got very angry and went to where Rajam was seated with a few other boys and said, "You cheated me. This pencil doesn't write any colour. You are a liar."

Good Bye Drugs

Drugs drugs go away
turn your face and walk away
never ever look this way.
When you go
I won't stop your way
you are an enemy not friend
I'll never shake hands with you.
For you life is a toy
which you can easily destroy
You are destroying people's health
And leading the world towards death.

- Karthik Sharma,
Std X,
St. Teresa's Academy,
Modinagar,
Ghaziabad.

A Beggar's Fury

I admit, I am in 'have-nots', hence, I am a beggar
But, why most of you in 'haves' are also beggars?
I have no sources of income and hence, I beg to live;
But, with all sources of income, you grab to live
I do not hoard for tomorrow or snatch the food of others;
But, you always hoard a lot and so, starve others
I offer to others, even if my requirements are not met;
But, you are not bothered whether others have or not
I live a satisfied, happier life with just limited wants;
But, you are greedy and hence, have unlimited wants
I get opportunity to take bath once a while to keep clean
But, your daily luxurious baths leave your minds unclean
I have no set boundary to live and 'sky is not the limit'
But, you live within the four walls of your own set limit
Now, please answer sincerely - who is the real 'beggar'?

- M. Santhoshi,
Std VI A, Lake Monfort School, Bangalore - 560049.

Rajam said, "Give me a paper my friends and I'll show David how my pencil writes in colours." He then took the pencil and shouted 'pink' and wrote on the piece of paper 'PINK ', then he shouted 'green' and wrote G R E E N. He wrote the names of a few more colours in the same way. By this time everyone understood what Rajam was up to and they started smiling and laughing.

Rajam then said to David, "I said my pencil can write all the colours; I didn't say that it can paint the colours." David also understood that today Rajam had made a fool of him but he also realized how a prank affects the person on whom it is played. So he promised that he would never hurt others' feelings again.

- Manoshi Roy, Bangalore

Pen Pals

1. Sakshi Chauhan(12), 118 M Road, Bhupalpura, Udaipur, Rajasthan - 313001. H&I: Reading and painting.
2. Vishnu J. Nair, S/o Jayakumar, "Krishnakripa", Peringammala, Kalliyoor P.O., Trivandrum, Kerala. H&I: Painting, singing and gardening.
3. Philin Saniachen(9), Madukkani Lane, Muttambalam P. O., Kanjikuzhy, Kottayam, Kerala. H&I: Watching T.V., playing computer games and reading.
4. Vinay Gandhi(15), R-511 First Floor, New Rajendra Nagar, New Delhi - 110060. H&I: Reading, cycling and friendship.
5. Priyanka B. Unnithan(13), 9/52, Asha Apartments, Kiran Park, Nava Wadaj, Ahmedabad - 380013. H&I: Reading, drawing and painting.
6. Anmol Bhandari(10), 117/167 'M' Block, Kakadeo, Kanpur. H&I: Playing cricket, video games and listening to music.
7. Jasmin Raihan(6), Std II, Model Central School, Alathur P.O., Palakkad - 678541, Kerala. H&I: Colouring, reading and chatting.
8. R. Vidya Sagar(13), Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Chikkajogihalli - 583126, Bellary, Karnataka. H&I: Playing table tennis and friendship.
9. Manvi Gupta(12), SD-436 Tower Apartments, Pitam Pura, New Delhi - 110088. H&I: Reading, swimming and surfing the Net.
10. Sajal Jain(12), 1250, Sector-3, Ballabgarh, Faridabad. H&I: Painting, drawing and listening to music.
11. Vivekanand M. Gowd(16), S/o S. M. Prabhavathi, Staff Nurse, KNTB Hospital, Sanitorium, Kolar - 563101, Karnataka. H&I: Acting, listening to music and chatting.
12. G. Ragavijaya(12), C-52, T.V.K. Street, Block-25, Neyveli-607803. H&I: Collecting stamps, reading and friendship.
13. Amelia Zoneihmawii(12), Std VI A, Mary Mount School, Tlanynuam, Aizawal, Mizoram. H&I: Reading, playing and friendship.
14. Nishanth K. N., Kurupashery, Vaikaprayar P.O., Vaikom, Kottayam -

Welcome to
Pen Pals
CLUB

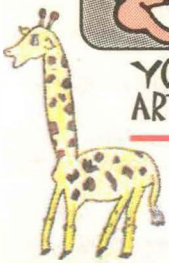
Send us particulars regarding your name and address, age, the standard you study, your hobbies and interests, to the following address

Co-ordinator,
Pen Pals Club,
Children's Digest,
P. B. No. 7,
Kottayam-686001,
Kerala, India.

686241, Kerala. H&I: Collecting coins, listening to music and swimming.

15. Vishnu(17), SOS Youth House, Edathala North P. O., Aluva - 683564, Kerala. H&I: Reading and listening to music.
16. Apoorva Kumar(12), 2089 Lodhi Road Complex, Near Nehru Stadium, New Delhi - 110003. H&I: Dancing, reading and watching movies.
17. Venugopal(17), SOS Youth House, Edathala North P. O., Aluva - 683564, Kerala. H&I: Gardening, playing cricket and watching movies.
18. Subu Nampi(14), D/o Subu Kojee, Near Qtr No. D-13, H-Sector, Itanagar - 791111, Arunachal Pradesh. H&I: Playing computer games, listening to music and friendship.
19. Parth Verma, S/o Kamal Verma, Kanchwala Bungalow, 68 Plowden Road, Mhow - 453441, Madhya Pradesh. H&I: Photography, drawing and reading.
20. M. S. Anil Kumar(16), Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Chikkajogihalli, Kudligi, Bellary - 583126, Karnataka. H&I: Friendship, chatting and dancing.
21. Susma Grace Varghese(14), Std X, India Campus Crusade for Christ, Priyadarshini Nagar, Puthur, Palghat - 1. H&I: Singing, listening to music and chatting.
22. Lakshmy R.(15), 10/831-L 'Krishna Kripa', Near Kadavil Tri Kovil, Udayamperoor - 682307, Kerala. H&I: Gardening, painting and friendship.
23. Sreeja Nair(16), 'Thekkekootu House', Udayamperoor P. O., Tripunithura, Kerala. H&I: Listening to music, writing letters and friendship.
24. Manu Madani(16), SOS Youth House, Edathala North P. O., Aluva - 683564, Kerala. H&I: Watching T.V., listening to music and playing football.
25. Akshita Devanand(12), 'Sri Chinnaya', Gundibail, Udupi, Karnataka - 576102. H&I: Painting, dancing and skating.
26. Amit(16), Standard XI, 4583, Pallava 'SRS', Sainik School, Amaravathi Nagar, Tamil Nadu. H&I: Playing football, listening to music and reading.
27. P. Bharati(16), Std XI, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Chikkajogihalli, Bellary, Karnataka - 583126. H&I: Reading, listening to music and collecting stamps.
28. Ankita Bose(13), C/o Anniruddha Bose, Std VIII B, Qtr. No. G VII/35, Chandrapura, D.V.C. Colony, Bokaro - 825303. H&I: Singing, reading and drawing.

YOUNG ARTISTS

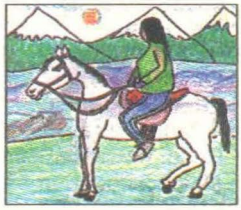


Sudarshan Gopal, I A, Apeejay School, Shiekh Sarai-I, New Delhi-110017.

A. Divya, VIII B, Railway Mixed High School, Erode, TN-638002.

Ashith K., V, Rosario English Medium School, Mangalore-575001.

Ancy Susan Moncy, IX, Mar Gregorios English Medium Higher Secondary School, Njaliyakuzhy P.O., Vakathanam, Kottayam.



Anangsha Alammyan, VII A, Carmel School, Cinnamara, Jorhat, Assam-785008.

V. Shanth, II A, Sishya School, Hosur-635109.

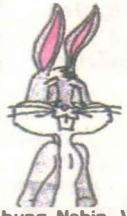
Aparna A.M., IX A, LFCGHSS, Guruvayur, Thrissur Dt.

J. Ben Zacharia, X A, Monfort School, Kumily.

Kriti Shah, II B, Queen Mary School, V.P. Road, Mumbai.

B.M.D. Adil, V, Jeevan Jyothi E.M. High School, Nandikottur, A.P.

A. Akshaya, I A, Sishya School, Hosur.



Habung Nobin, V, V.K.V. Seijosa, A. P.

Rishab R., IV B, Sishya School, Thally Road, Hosur-635109.

K. Thanya, VI B, Vedavalli Vidyalaya Senior Secondary School, Walajapet-632513.

Mahesh Sivaram Krishna P.L., VI C, Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Kolazhy, Thrissur.

Christopher James, VI, Deva Matha CMI Public School, Thrissur.

S. G. Bheeresh Kumar, VII A, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore-560012.

S. Siddharth, V B, Vedavalli Vidyalaya Senior Secondary School, Walajapet-632513.

Purnima B., VII B, Vedavalli Vidyalaya Senior Secondary School, Walajapet-632513.

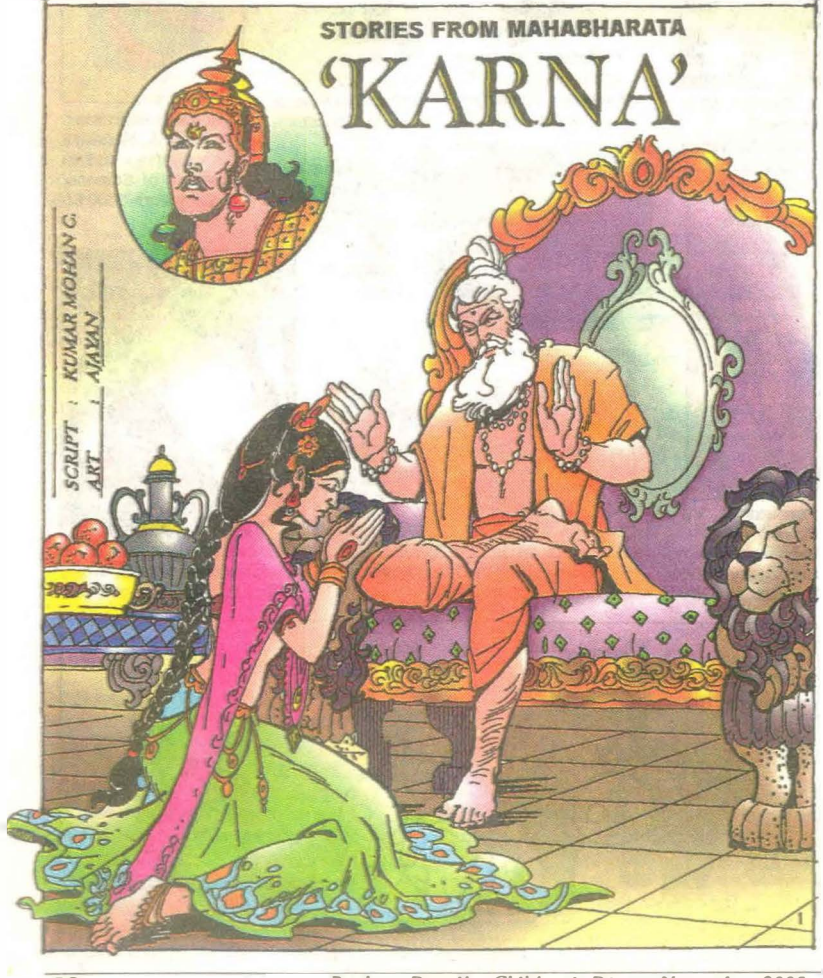
V. Samyukth, VI C, St. Xaviers School, Delhi.

Nimisha Iyer, VIII B, Army School, Agra Cantt, Agra, U.P.

KARNA, A HEROIC CHARACTER IN THE EPIC MAHABHARATA, WAS THE SON OF KUNTI, MOTHER OF THE PANDAVAS, AND THE SUN GOD. KARNA GREW UP AS THE ADOPTED SON OF A CHARIOTEER BUT WAS TRAINED IN ARCHERY BY THE SAME GREAT MASTERS WHO TAUGHT THE PANDAVAS AND THE KAURAVAS.

KARNA WAS A PHILANTHROPIST WHO COULD NEVER REFUSE ANYTHING ASKED FOR, WITH SUCH QUALITIES, HE WAS CALLED "DAANI KARNA"

KARNA HATED THE PANDAVAS, ESP. ARJUNA, AND IN THE KURUKSHETRA WAR NARRATED IN MAHABHARATA, THE UNFORTUNATE HERO WAS KILLED BY ARJUNA. HERE'S HIS HEROIC BUT SAD STORY_



KUNTI'S YOUTHFUL CURIOSITY MADE HER TEST THE EFFICACY OF THE DIVINE MANTRA BY INVOKING THE SUN.
KUNTI, WHY DID YOU INVOKE ME?
I WAS SIMPLY TESTING THE MANTRA REVEALED TO ME BY A SAGE.
I'M HELD BY THE POWER OF THE MANTRA YOU UTTERED. I'M UNDER ITS SPELL AND CAN'T SIMPLY RETURN.
PLEASE FORGIVE MY FOLLY !
SUN GOD BLESSED KUNTI WITH A SON.
KUNTI PUT THE CHILD IN A BOX AND SET IT AFLOAT IN RIVER YAMUNA.
SON.....FORGIVE THIS MOTHER...!
THAT BEAUTIFUL CHILD WAS BORN WITH DIVINE ARMOUR AND EARRINGS. HE WAS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL LIKE THE SUN.

THE FLOATING BOX WAS RECOVERED BY A CHILDLESS CHARIOTEER.

HE OPENED THE BOX AND WAS SURPRISED.

EH..! AN INFANT CHILD.

THEN THE CHARIOTEER BECAME HAPPY AS HE COULD ADOPT THAT BEAUTIFUL CHILD AS HIS SON. HE ENTRUSTED THE BABY TO HIS WIFE.

RADHA.....! THE GODS GAVE US THIS CHILD AS WE ARE CHILDLESS.

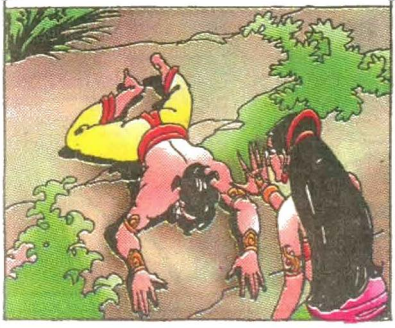
THE LOVING COUPLE NAMED THE CHILD VASUSHENA.

LATER KUNTI WAS MARRIED TO PANDU. THE KING OF HASTINAPURA.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PREVAILING CUSTOM, PANDU ALSO TOOK A SECOND WIFE, MADRI.

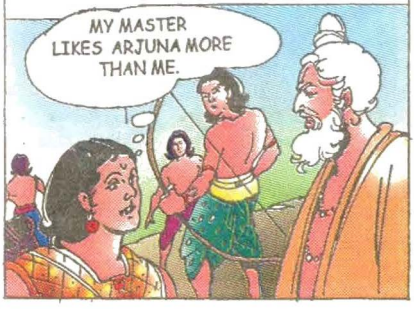
BUT DUE TO A CURSE; CHILDREN WERE DENIED TO KING PANDU. SO WITH THE PERMISSION OF PANDU, KUNTI AND MADRI USED THE BOON OF THE HOLY MANTRA. AND THE FIVE PANDAVAS WERE BORN TO KUNTI AND MADRI.

KING PANDU DIED PREMATURELY DUE TO THE CURSE OF A SAGE.

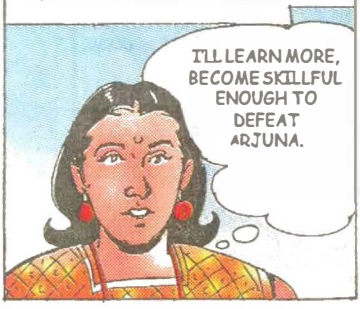


THE PANDAVA AND THE KAURAVA PRINCES GREW UP AT HASTINAPURA LEARNING ARCHERY FROM KRIPA AND DRONA.

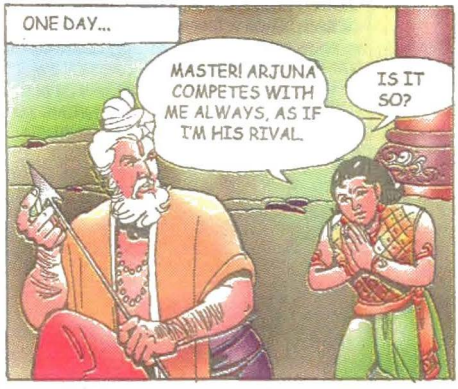
KARNA ALSO WAS TRAINED BY DRONACHARYA.

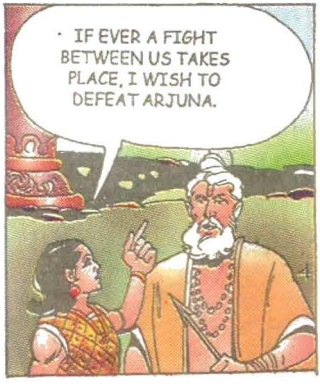


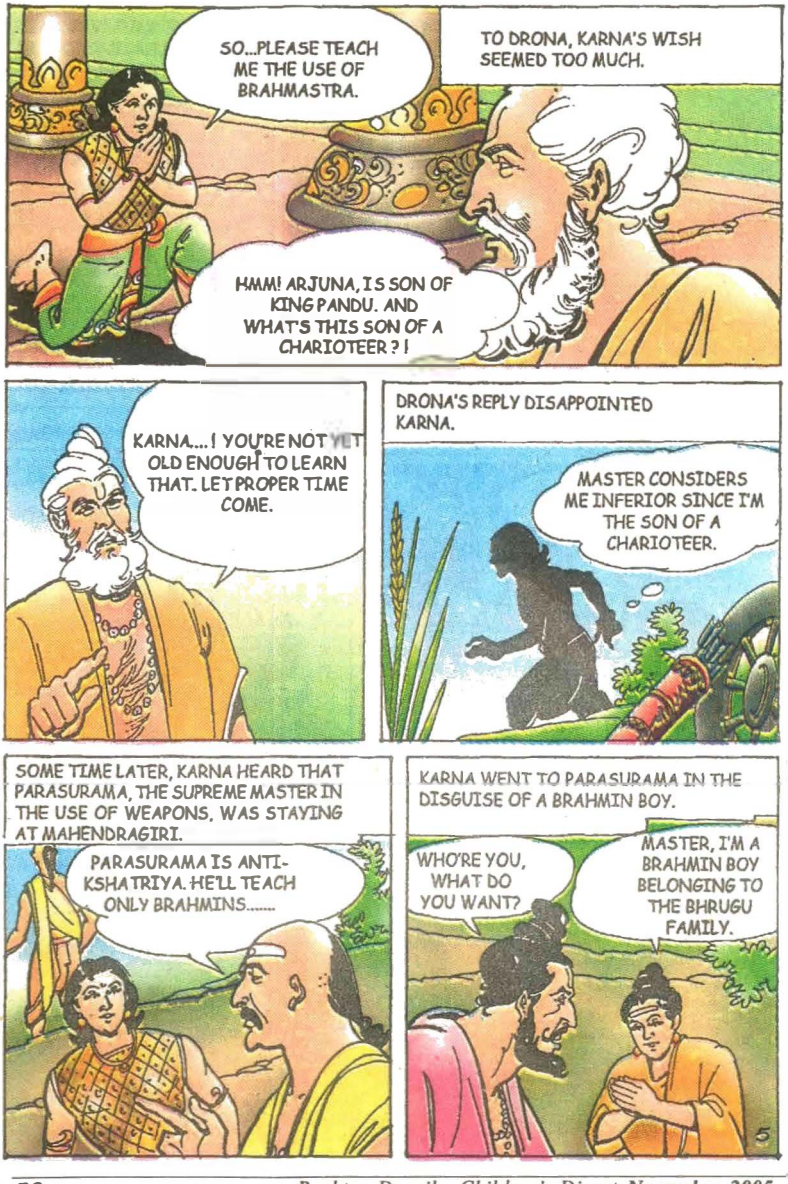
IN ARCHERY AND THE USE OF ARROWS, ARJUNA AND KARNA EXCELLED.



ONE DAY...






SO...PLEASE TEACH ME THE USE OF BRAHMASTRA.
TO DRONA, KARNA'S WISH SEEMED TOO MUCH.
HMM! ARJUNA, IS SON OF KING PANDU. AND WHAT'S THIS SON OF A CHARIOTEER ? !
KARNA.... ! YOU'RE NOT YET OLD ENOUGH TO LEARN THAT. LET PROPER TIME COME.
DRONA'S REPLY DISAPPOINTED KARNA.
MASTER CONSIDERS ME INFERIOR SINCE I'M THE SON OF A CHARIOTEER.
SOME TIME LATER, KARNA HEARD THAT PARASURAMA, THE SUPREME MASTER IN THE USE OF WEAPONS, WAS STAYING AT MAHENDRAGIRI.
PARASURAMA IS ANTI-KSHATRIYA. HE'LL TEACH ONLY BRAHMINS.....
KARNA WENT TO PARASURAMA IN THE DISGUISE OF A BRAHMIN BOY.
WHO'RE YOU, WHAT DO YOU WANT?
MASTER, I'M A BRAHMIN BOY BELONGING TO THE BHRUGU FAMILY.
5

I WISH TO BECOME YOUR DISCIPLE AND LEARN ARCHERY FROM YOU.
PARASURAMA ACCEPTED HIM AS A DISCIPLE.
ONE DAY KARNA WAS WALKING NEAR THE MASTER'S ASHRAM.
A WILD BEAST THERE!
THAT WAS THE COW OF A POOR BRAHMIN. IT FELL DOWN DEAD . HIT BY AN ARROW SHOT BY KARNA.
MAAAH...
EH !!

(To be continued)

Feature

-*A.C. Tuli, New Delhi*

Needed, Another Pied Piper

It is, of course, impossible to carry out an accurate census of rodents - rats, mice, voles, lemmings, et al - all over the world. But then, we do not need a census to know that these creatures can multiply at an alarming rate. European countries keep waging a war against these pests, but victory is still nowhere in sight. And Asia is so densely populated with these nibblers and gnawers that this continent can rightly be called their GHQ.

In the famous Robert Browning poem 'The Pied Piper of Hamelin', a mysterious-looking man (Pied Piper) suddenly appears on the scene. He says he can rid Hamelin, a town in Germany, of its entire population of rats. The city council of Hamelin agrees to pay him a certain sum as his fee for doing this work. So he plays a magic tune on his golden pipe, and all the rats of Hamelin come out of their hideouts. The Pied Piper leads the procession of rats to the river on the bank of which the town of Hamelin is situated. He wades into the river, and the rats fol-

low him. The result is that all the rats are drowned in the river. That the Pied Piper was later cheated of his reward by the city council of Hamelin is, of course, a different story. But, it is sufficient to say that Hamelin was freed from the curse of rats by the Pied Pier.

Alas, today there are countless towns and cities in the world with an ever-increasing population of rats and mice, but there is no Pied Piper around to come to their rescue. However, there is still some hope. It is now being realized all over the world that the best possible way to deal with these creatures is to entrust their destruction to the people at large.

The municipal committee of a town in Malaysia has recently announced an incentive scheme for its citizens. Under this scheme, those who catch and kill rats are rewarded adequately.

Atascaderos is a small town in Mexico. The municipal committee of this town has recently advertised that it intends to raise an army of cats to tackle the growing population of rats. The committee has appealed to the people of Atascaderos and also to the people of some neighbouring towns to donate their cats for this noble cause.

Did You Know?

As of 2001, there were around 44 million sheep in New Zealand, a country of around 4 million people.

Nearer home, the municipal corporation of Amritsar (Punjab) has recently advertised that it will pay Rs 8/- for every rat caught and killed by its citizens.

Among rodents, rats are considered to be most successful in finding their way to practically all parts of the world. They can gnaw through cloth, pipes and cables. They can transmit various diseases through food poisoning.

Perhaps the only thing that can be said in favour of rats and mice is that they are bred for use as laboratory animals for scientific research. But this may not appear to many of us as a very solid reason to let rats and mice multiply and, one day, outnumber human beings on this planet. ■

Gallery of Scientists

- P. Gopalakrishnan

Jagdish Chandra Bose (1858 - 1937)

Pioneer in Microwave Physics

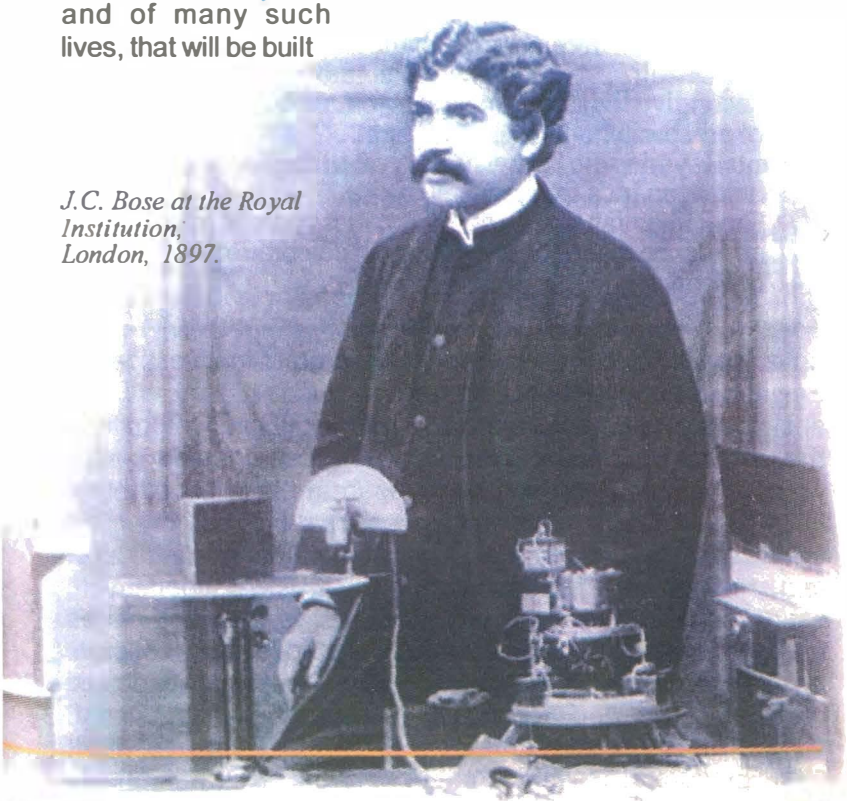
Jagdish Chandra Bose was both a physicist and a biologist who made significant contributions in both fields. He was born in 1858 at Mymensingh, which is in Bangladesh now. His father, Bhagavan Chandra Bose was a deputy magistrate there, when India was under British rule.

As a magistrate Bhagavan Chandra meted out justice strictly. But he was very kindhearted. Once he sentenced a notorious outlaw to a long prison sentence. When his term in jail was over he came to the magistrate and pleaded with him for some employment so that he could maintain himself. Bhagavan Chandra employed him as his own servant, trusting the ex-criminal with the duty of carrying Jagdish, then a child of four, to the distant school and back home. He could trust the former criminal with the life of his son because he believed in the essential goodness of every man. Jagdish later recalled that "no nurse could have been more tender than this man."

Bhagavan Chandra Bose was a patriot who had a great sense of social responsibility. He wanted to develop India's agriculture, industry and commerce and started many enterprises to this end, often spending his own money. He not only lost his money but even ran into debt. His friends and relatives regarded him a failure. Dwelling on this, Jagdish Chandra Bose, in the

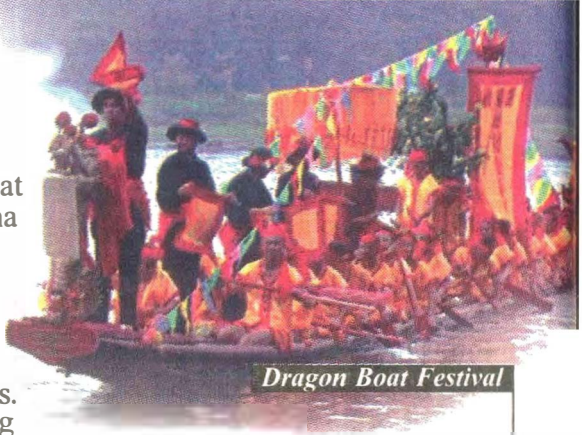
course of his presidential address, at a conference decades later, said: "Everyone had said that he had wrecked his life, which was meant for greater things. Few realise that out of the skeletons of myriad lives have been built vast continents. And it is on the wreck of a life like his, and of many such lives, that will be built the greater India yet to be."

Bhagavan Chandra sent his son to a vernacular school (school that teaches in the mother tongue) at a time when the upper classes sent their children only to fashionable English medium schools. Touching on this, J. C. Bose remarked: "At that



J.C. Bose at the Royal Institution, London, 1897.

Celebration Facts



Dragon Boat Festival

- The Dragon Boat Festival of China is held to give thanks for food and water in the dry season, with races of decorated boats.
- On Thanksgiving Day in the USA and Canada, families sit down to a special meal in celebration of the harvest.
- The Diwali Festival in India celebrates the harvest with decorative lights, and offerings to Lakshmi, the goddess of prosperity.
- Inti Raymi is the Peruvian Festival of the Sun god, Inti, held in an Inca fortress.
- The Rio de Janeiro Carnival is a mass parade of costume and dance, based on the Christian celebration of the end of Lent.

time sending children to English schools was an aristocratic status symbol. In the vernacular school to which I was sent, the son of the Muslim attendant of my father sat on my right side, and the son of a fisherman sat on my left. They were my playmates. I listened spellbound to their stories of birds, animals and aquatic creatures. Perhaps these stories created in my mind a keen interest in investigating the workings of Nature."

He would often return from school accompanied by his classmates, and on those occasions his mother would welcome them and feed all of them without discrimination. She always treated them as she treated her own children.

His parents were endowed with a sense of what is right, and the courage to do it regardless of what others

thought of them. Jagdish imbibed from them this deep sympathy for the underprivileged and the wronged.

He studied at the vernacular school till he reached nine and Jagdish received a sound grounding in his mother tongue, Bengali, at this school. On completing his studies there, he was sent to Calcutta, where he had his high school education in St. Xavier's School. He then joined St. Xavier's College and graduated from there in 1879 at the age of twenty-one.

Jagdish wanted to go to England and study for the Indian Civil Service, for his parents were in financial difficulties and he thought that the I.C.S. being the most paying profession available at the time, would enable him to help them. But his father vetoed the proposal. He said that he wanted his son to be a "scholar who ruled no one but himself." However, he readily assented when Jagdish put forth a second choice of studying medicine in England.

Unfortunately, he couldn't complete even the first year of medical studies in London. When the autumn term began he fell ill from a disease he had contracted months back in India, from a hunting expedition in the forests of Assam. Even the best treatment available at the time couldn't affect a complete cure. The doctors advised Jagdish to leave the medical course as the odours of the dissection rooms made his condition worse.

He gave up medical studies and joined Christ's College at Cambridge, for natural science. At that time some famous names in science were in the teaching staff at Christ's, and Bose had

the good fortune to attend their classes. Among them was Lord Raleigh whose lectures inspired him to take up physics. Professor Sidney Vines who taught botany was another inspiration.

At the time J. C. Bose was studying at Cambridge, P. C. Ray (Prafulla Chandra Ray), another Indian, who would like him become a famous scientist, was a student of chemistry in Edinburgh. They met in London and become friends.

Bose returned to India in 1885. He was appointed officiating professor of physics at the Presidency College, Calcutta. There he was discriminated against. An Indian professor's salary was only two thirds of what a European professor was paid.

Did You Know?

The Ancient Egyptian word for cat was mau, which means "to see".

Discrimination didn't end here. Bose was not provided with a well-equipped lab or other facilities for conducting research. He fought back by refusing to accept his salary cheques. He went on teaching at the Presidency College for three years without pay. It was extremely

Bonnie and Booboo

hard upon him as he had married during the time, and his family was facing privation with his father's many ventures meeting with failure. During those days of trial his wife Amala Das stood by him with unwavering courage.

Finally the authorities, realising that J. C. Bose excelled as a professor, agreed to pay him the full amount of salary. They made his appointment permanent, and he was paid the back arrears of the full salary for the three years he had been working there. This enabled him to pay back the debts his father had incurred through his well-meaning ventures to build up India's industries.

Part of the debt, Jagdish had already settled by selling away his ancestral house, family properties and his mother's ornaments. His father, cleared of debt, lived for one more year and died at the age of sixty-two. His mother followed his father in the next year.

The British policy for their colonies like India didn't give importance to promoting research. Bose hadn't a proper laboratory at the Presidency College to conduct experiments. All that he was provided with consisted of a room, with hardly any equipment worth its name. Bose with the help of a tinsmith, designed and built the equipment he needed. In this way he became perhaps the first maker of indigenous lab equipment in India. He spent

Did You Know?

A fifteen year old cat has probably spent ten years of its life sleeping.

his hard earned money for making experimental equipment. Within a decade of his joining the Presidency College he emerged as a pioneer in the field of wireless waves.

James Clerk Maxwell had already predicted in 1864 that such waves - electromagnetic waves - existed. Later in 1888, a German physicist Heinrich Hertz demonstrated the existence of the waves, and found their speed the same as that of light. Seven years later in 1895 a physics instructor Alexander Popov in Russia devised a receiver that detected approaching thunderstorms. In the same year, Ernest Rutherford at Cambridge performed an experiment on wireless transmission, but he didn't pursue his investigation further.

Oliver Lodge, a British physicist, had published a book on electromagnetic waves entitled *The Work of Hertz and Some of his Successors*. This work caught Bose's attention. He immediately began his own investigations on the studies presented in the book.

He fabricated a device to generate microwaves of very short wave lengths. He was the first to use microwaves to understand the structure of materials.

He also fabricated a highly sensitive instrument called *coherer* to detect radio waves. Invention of the

Did You Know?

The word "metre" was adopted only in 1793 by the French Academy of Science, derived from the Greek word "metron", meaning "a measure." The metric system was adopted officially in France in 1799.

coherer helped development of solid-state physics.

During this period Bose made a spectacular demonstration of firing a cannon through distant wireless control. He called electromagnetic waves "the invisible light, which can easily pass through brick walls, buildings etc." "Therefore," he said, "messages can be transmitted through it, without the mediation of wires."

But Bose didn't go for long-distance wireless telegraphy as what he wanted was to study the properties of radio waves. His interest was of one who adheres to pure science and not of an inventor who works on its practical applications. But Marconi, an Italian scientist who was his contemporary, got interested in using it for long-distance signalling. In this he succeeded in 1901, thereby opening a new chapter in the history of communication.

Bose's research on the coherer led him from physics to the study of metals and then to the study of plants. He arrived at the conclusion that plants and metals have life, on the basis of the electric nature of living things. Bose showed with the help of the highly sensitive instrument he had designed, that plants respond to stimuli like an injury or wound as animals do and though they do not have a brain, muscle or heart, there are small cells that behave in the same manner. The only

Did You Know?

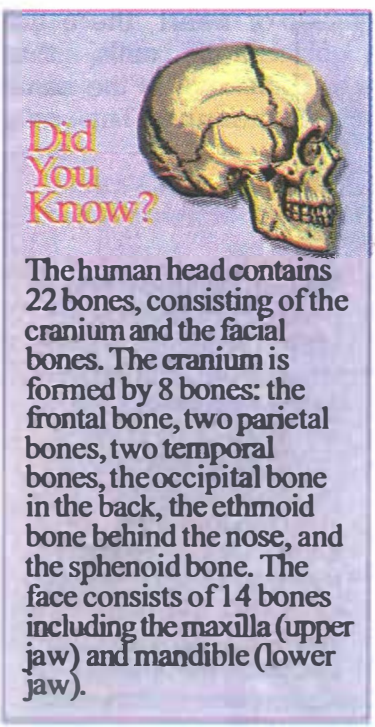
William Thomson, who became Lord Kelvin of Largs (Scotland) in 1892, was one of Great Britain's foremost scientists and inventors. He published more than 650 scientific papers and patented some 70 inventions. He is known for developing a temperature scale in which -273.15°C (-459.67°F) is absolute zero. The scale is known as the absolute, or Kelvin, temperature scale.

difference between the response of a plant and of an animal is of time. A plant takes a longer time to respond.

Bose presented his findings in a paper entitled, *On the General Molecular Phenomena Produced by Electricity in Living and Nonliving Matter*, at the International Congress of Physicists held in Paris in August 1900. From there he went to England to put forward his views there. His lecture *On the Similarity of Effect of Electrical Stimulus on Inorganic and Living Substances* at a meeting of the British Association in Bradford greatly impressed some leading British scientists. Prof. Oliver Lodge, who was present at the meeting, came forward to contradict him. Scientists like Lodge saw in his findings an echo of India's philosophy of synthesis. They cautioned him against making premature attempts at a "synthesis based on inspiration."

He was knighted by the British Government in 1917 and in the same year he founded the Bose Research Institute in Calcutta, of which he was Director till his death in 1937.

Not many of his countrymen thought him great till the West recognised him so. Notable exceptions were Swami Vivekananda, Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore. But of course, they were the names that mattered most. ■


Did
You
Know?
The human head contains 22 bones, consisting of the cranium and the facial bones. The cranium is formed by 8 bones: the frontal bone, two parietal bones, two temporal bones, the occipital bone in the back, the ethmoid bone behind the nose, and the sphenoid bone. The face consists of 14 bones including the maxilla (upper jaw) and mandible (lower jaw).

Great expectations

Pip is a little orphan boy brought up by his domineering sister Mrs. Joe and her husband, the local blacksmith. They live in a marshy village in Kent.

One afternoon, Pip is all alone in the graveyard when he encounters a fearsome figure – an escaped convict, who grabs him and orders him at the peril of his life to get him food and a file for his leg irons. The terrified Pip steals them for him. Soon afterwards, the convict is captured, but he protects Pip by confessing to the crime.

At his sister's house, Pip is a boy without any ambition. Mrs. Joe beats and scolds him. Joe tries to make up for his wife's harshness. It is assumed that Pip will step into his shoes. One day, everything changes when Mr. Pumblechook, a pompous merchant of the village, brings some sensational news. Miss Havisham, a very rich, eccentric woman living near their village, has engaged Pip to play in her house. Pumblechook and Pip's sister believe that she will make Pip's fortune.

Miss Havisham is a bitter old woman, whose life effectively stopped when she was abandoned on her wedding day 50 years ago. She has ever since stopped all the clocks in her decrepit house, and constantly wears her old, yellowed wedding gown. At her house, Pip meets her adopted daughter, Estella, who disdains him. Miss Havisham's mission in life is to raise Estella as a hard-hearted woman who will break men's hearts.

What are Pip's 'great expectations' and are they fulfilled? To find out, read *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens – a gripping coming-of-age classic.

- *Hema Rao, Chennai*

THE BALL-MERRY-GO-ROUND!

Abhay was happily walking in the park. He was on TOP of the world! He had a new cricket ball! He threw it on the grass. A dog was sniffing at a nearby rose bush. It ran off with Abhay's ball.

"GIVE ME MY BALL!" shouted Abhay angrily.

The little dog pranced around the boy, its tail

wagging happily.

"Want this?" asked Abhay, waving a twig temptingly, in front of the dog.

The dog wagged its tail more vigorously. What fun it would be if it could have the twig AND the ball! The boy flung the twig into the air. The dog did NOT jump to catch the twig. It knew it could have the twig but then IT would lose the ball! Another small dog delightedly caught the twig. It ran towards Abhay.

"Grrrrrrr!" growled the dog happily, its teeth firmly clenched round the woody twig.

Now both the two small dogs wanted to play with him! Abhay took out his big handkerchief. He waved it in front of the dogs. The dog-with-twig dropped the twig. Then it pulled one end of the handkerchief.

"Grrrr!" growled the dog-with-ball, jealously.

The dog dropped the ball. Then it pulled at the middle of the handkerchief. Abhay let go of his end. Now the two small animals were having a hanky-tug-of-war!

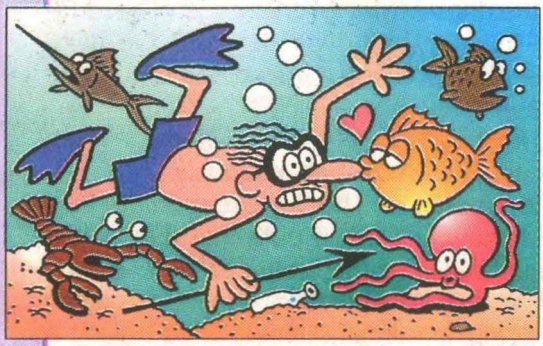
"Grrrrrrrrr!" growled the dogs happily.

Abhay picked up the twig and his ball.

"WOOF!" barked a dog. "WOOF! WOOF!"

It was a big brown alsatian! One small dog fled towards the east. The other towards the west! Abhay did NOT run.

Try It...



The scrambled words are things found in this scene. How many can you unscramble?

1) TPOSCUO
2) KMSA
3) TORLEBS
4) PRSIEPLF
5) ASREP
6) TEBLOT

(See page 97)

"CATCH!" shouted Abhay, throwing something into the air.

Abhay thought he had flung the twig. He was horrified to see he had hurled his brand new ball instead!

"No chance of getting it back!" muttered Abhay sadly, throwing away the twig.

He walked home. He did NOT see three dogs following him. The first had his handkerchief, the second the twig, and the big alsatian, his ball!

"Want ball!" said a little boy, walking towards Abhay. "Want THAT ball!"

Abhay turned around. There stood his three unwanted, canine park friends, wagging their tails happily!

"Oh no!" groaned Abhay. "NOW what do I do?"

He put his hand into his pocket. Out came a piece of bubblegum, a stone and a teeny-weeny battery - operated toy dinosaur.

"Aha!" gloated Abhay, "Let's see HOW you handle this!"

He wound up the little plastic dinosaur. It hurtled around menacingly. The dogs slowly moved back, scared that the horrible creature would BITE them! Down fell

the ball, the twig and the handkerchief as the dogs barked and tried to paw the horrid whirring dinosaur out of their path.

"GRRRRRR! BOW-WOW! Grrrrr!"

"Whrrrrrrrrrrr!" buzzed the tiny toy creature, as it slowly moved towards them, swaying its arms about and lifting its head threateningly. It was definitely NOT scared of their deep, unfriendly growls. The dogs moved backwards.

"Grrrrrrrrrr!" growled the canines, cringing with tails between their legs. "GRRRRRRRRRR!"

A hungry cat whooshed past the boy and the dogs. It had just seen a fat rat. It HAD to catch it even if it meant crossing the enemy camp!

"M E O W W W W W W!" hissed the cat furiously, as it swept past the four at supersonic speed!

"Whrrrrrrrrrrr!" said the toy and touched one small dog's paw.

"ATISHOOOOO!" sneezed Abhay, who was allergic to cats!

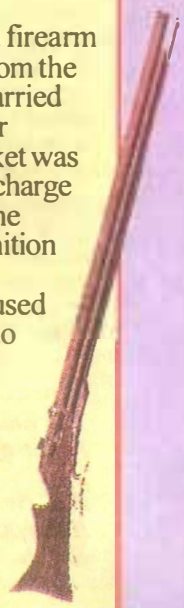
The dogs fled. Abhay's loud sneezes ALWAYS scared people out of their skin! Abhay happily picked up the handkerchief, the twig and the ball. He then picked up his toy dinosaur and made his way home. Finally he had his brand new cricket ball! But he no longer is on TOP of the world. His ball now looks like the moon, with somewhat largish CRATERS all over it, thanks to his doggie friends! ■

Did You Know?

A musket was a firearm which was fired from the shoulder. It was carried by foot soldiers, or infantry. The musket was fired by lighting a charge of gunpowder in the barrel. The ammunition was lead shot.

Muskets were used from about 1550 to about 1850. After this time, a more powerful firearm, the rifle, was introduced.

The Spanish army was the first to carry muskets.



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RASHTRA DEEPIKA
CHILDREN'S
DIGEST

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SCOOTER game

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GUITARIST

Game

Hello little friends,

Here is an interesting game for you - a 'Fun Game' that brings to you wonderful gifts. So, get started and win your gifts.

Find out how many smaller words you can form from the word

GUITARIST

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So rush your answers on a postcard to:

The Editor, JIVE Fun Time, Rashtra Deepika Children's Digest, P.B. No. 7, Kottayam, Kerala.

N.B.: Don't forget to put your address on the card. Also please don't repeat any letter more than the number of times it has appeared in the word.

Novel

Chapter Ten

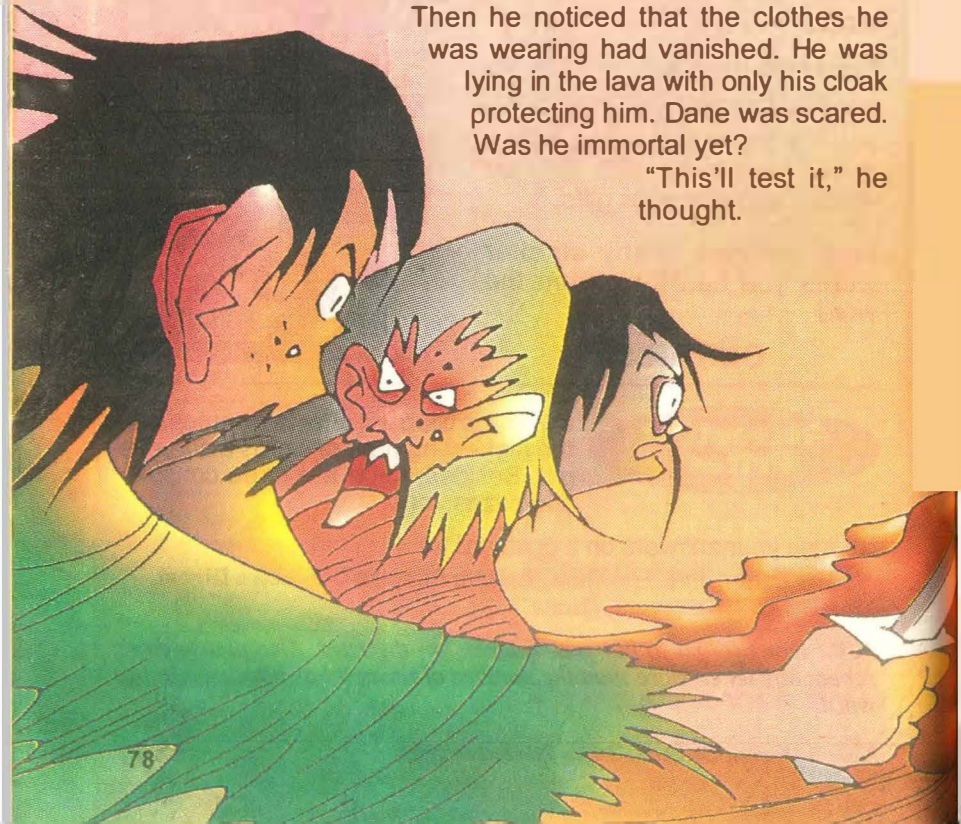
- Ciju Puthuppally

The Sword of Immortality

Dane fell into the volcano, into the boiling hot lava, holding the Sword of Immortality in his hand. He felt young and full of energy. His hair had turned gold as also his moustache and his beard!

Then he noticed that the clothes he was wearing had vanished. He was lying in the lava with only his cloak protecting him. Dane was scared. Was he immortal yet?

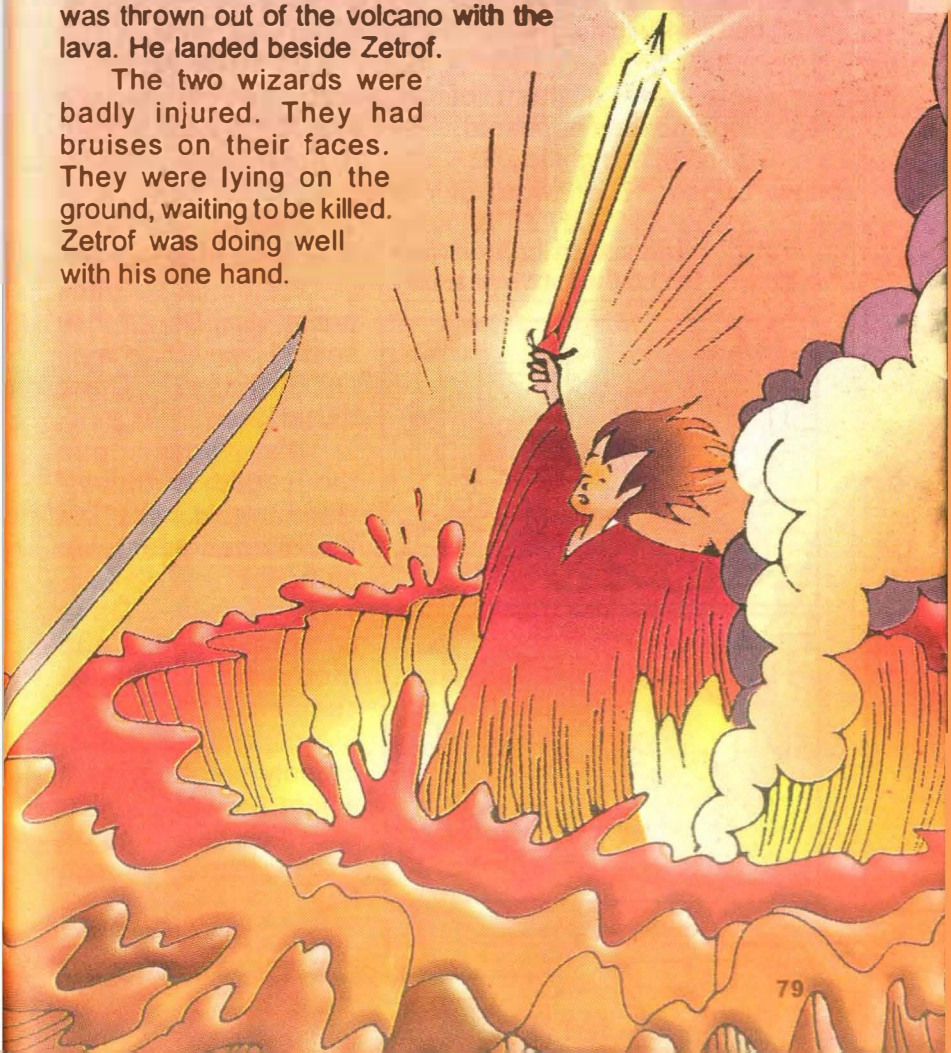
"This'll test it," he thought.



He waited for something to happen to him, but nothing did. He was really immortal! He took out his old sword from its sheath and threw it into the lava. It melted instantly in the hot liquid. Then he put the Sword of Immortality in the sheath and swam in the lava, waiting for it to erupt.

This time it was a real eruption. Dane was thrown out of the volcano with the lava. He landed beside Zetrof.

The two wizards were badly injured. They had bruises on their faces. They were lying on the ground, waiting to be killed. Zetrof was doing well with his one hand.



Zetrof swung his sword at Dane. It hit his hand and the blade broke into pieces. Zetrof looked terrified.

"Wha...?"

But Zetrof never said another word. Dane had stabbed him with the Sword of Immortality.

There was a flash of lightning and Law appeared.

"You have no right to kill..." Law began. "The Sword of Immortality? Oh my!"

There was another flash of lightning and Law was gone.

With Blackwing it had only taken one day to get back to Dane's castle. Surprisingly, there was a banner saying, "Welcome back home." When Dane went inside he saw a hundred ghosts in the entrance hall, having a party. All of them were familiar faces.

Try It... Find six differences between these two panels.

(See page 97)

Then he saw Garla, Garman and the triplets.

"Welcome back home, King Dane!" they said. "Happy Birthday!"

"Birthday?" Dane asked.

"It's your one thousandth birthday!" Garman told him. "Did you forget your own birthday?"

Thus Dane celebrated his one thousandth birthday, surrounded by his old friends, and many other friendly creatures with whom he was familiar and whom he had met on his long journey through life.

(Concluded)

Catchy Quotes

■ Honest disagreement is often a good sign of progress.

- **Mahatma Gandhi**

■ Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goal.

- Henry Ford

■ Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though chequered by failure, than to rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much nor suffer much because they live in the gray twilight that knows neither victory nor defeat.

- **Theodore Roosevelt**

■ There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.

- Edith Wharton

■ What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal.

- Albert Pike

■ It is with the heart that one sees rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye."

- Antoine de Saint-Exupery

■ Nobody is bored when he is trying to make something that is beautiful, or to discover something that is true.

- William Inge

■ I have found that if you love life, life will love you back.

-Arthur Rubinstein

■ I often quote myself; it adds spice to my conversation.

- George Bernard Shaw

A Companion in the Wilderness

Little Gopal was a happy child. He lived an austere life with his widowed mother in a tiny hut in a village. She managed to eke out a frugal living by growing vegetables on their small plot of land, and by plying her spinning wheel. Her little son was the centre of her world. Dreams of his future were her sustenance. Lord Krishna, to whom she was devoted, was her greatest comfort. Often she would narrate stories of Krishna's childhood to her little boy.

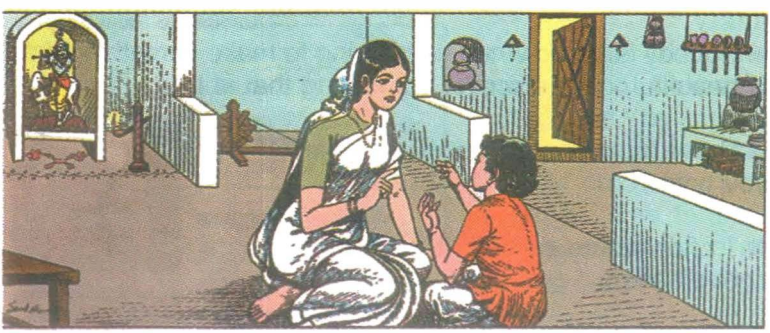
The villagers respected the quiet, hardworking widow. As for little Gopal, his sweet, cheerful nature made him the darling of the whole village. So, despite their poverty, mother and son led a contented life amid people who cared for them.

As Gopal grew up, his mother decided to send him to school. He was a bright lad, and she wished he would become a scholar like his father.

Gopal was duly enrolled in the school in the next village. To reach the place, he had to cross a dense forest.

Gopal cheerfully waved his mother goodbye and went his way. As he walked into the forest, it became dark. The wind, whistling through the trees, made an eerie howling sound. The little boy was filled with sudden fear.

Screaming in terror, he took to his heels. But he tripped on a



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tree root and fell. He picked himself up and ran blindly ahead. He was weeping bitterly when he finally emerged out of the forest.

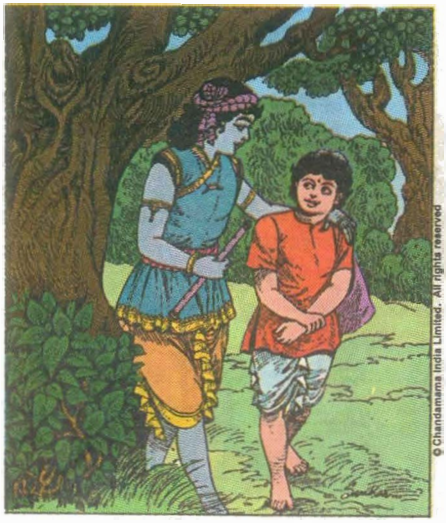
Gopal's experience in the school was very pleasant. He found the company of his classmates great fun after his restricted life. But all the pleasure was blotted out when he thought of the return journey through the forest.

It was even more of a nightmare than the morning trip. By the time he reached home, Gopal was convinced that he could do it no longer.

His mother, who had been eagerly waiting for his return, was aghast to see his chalk-white, tear-stained face. Gopal clung to her and cried, "Mother, I don't want to go to school!" He then blurted out his fears of the forest.

Gopal's mother knew that other boys had fathers or brothers to escort them through the forest. Gopal had none. What could she do? She could not take on the task herself. Suddenly, her eyes fell on the idol of Krishna.

"Gopal, would you go to school if someone were to take you?" she asked.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"Will you, Mother?" he asked eagerly.

"I can't, my son," she answered. "But your brother will."

"Really, Mother?" asked Gopal in exultation. "That's wonderful! I never knew I had a brother! Tell me – where is he, and what does he do? And what's his name?"

Smiling at his childish exuberance, his mother pulled him on to her lap. "He's also Gopal," she said. "He's a cowherd in the forest, and spends his time tending the cattle and playing his flute. Next time you feel lonely in the forest, all you have to do is call out to him! He'll certainly appear

and keep you company."

The next morning, in his eagerness to meet his brother, Gopal was ready well ahead of time. He happily waved his mother goodbye and went his way.

Today, the much-dreaded forest held no terrors. A while later, a chill ran through his blood as a sudden thought struck – 'Will my brother really come when I call him?'

Gopal raised his voice and tremulously called, "Gopal! Brother Gopal, come to me! I'm scared!"

His fears were dispelled the very next moment, as he heard the jingling of cowbells and anklets. He saw a smiling face. Its owner was a tall, dark boy with a most engaging smile, and Gopal's heart instantly warmed up to him..

"Here I am, Gopal! Mother told me to meet you," he said. "Come, let's go."

The days that followed were the happiest days of Gopal's life. His friendship with his cowherd brother enriched his life. The journeys through the forest were no longer a nightmare. In his brother's company, Gopal forgot all his fears.

When Gopal joyfully related his brother's doings to his mother, the widow turned to the idol with tearful eyes and said a silent prayer to the Lord who was taking care of her son.

One day, Gopal heard of his teacher throwing a feast. All the students were expected to give gifts of clothes or provisions.

When Gopal's mother heard the news, her heart sank. What gift could she, a poor widow, offer? Then Gopal had a bright idea. He would ask his brother for advice.

The cowherd did not disappoint him. He gave him a pot of curd to present to his teacher.

The feast was a grand affair. Gopal's humble pot contrasted sharply with the other boys' gifts

of expensive silks, sweets and jaggery. The teacher received it with some disdain and kept it aside, intending to serve it at the feast.

But he was in for a surprise. The curd stole the show at the feast. All those who tasted it relished it and asked for more. But no matter how much was served, the pot of curd remained as full as ever! The teacher was baffled. He emptied the pot into a bigger one, but the little pot was full again!

Stupefied, the teacher asked Gopal where he had got the curd from, and Gopal honestly answered that his brother – a cowherd in the forest – had given it to him. The sceptical teacher now wanted to meet the brother, and asked Gopal to take him to the forest. Gopal did so.

Alas! The loving brother, who until now had never failed to respond to Gopal's calls, did not make his appearance. In despair, Gopal sank down on his knees, sobbing, "Oh, Brother Gopal, why don't you come? My teacher will take me for a liar!"

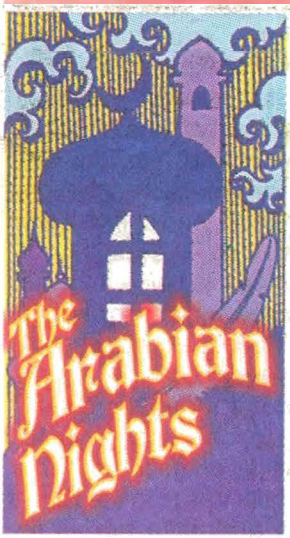
All of a sudden, the forest was lit up with an unearthly light as a voice spoke, "I'm here, dear Gopal. But I'm visible only to the pure at heart, and to those who truly love me – like you!"

Hearing this, the teacher fell to his knees and began to weep. Gopal now realised who his 'brother' really was.

"You are fortunate, Gopal," said the teacher later, as he led his pupil out of the forest. "Your simple faith has won the Lord's heart in a manner not all my erudition and worship could! And thanks to you, we could partake of curd from the very hand of the Lord. God bless you, my child!"

- Retold by
Rajee Raman

THE ARABIAN NIGHTS THE ENVIOUS AND THE GRACIOUS - 6



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That night, Ajib grew very depressed.

I've always tried to be honest and friendly with everyone. And yet there is this man who has fallen grievously ill because of me. What wrong did I do?

THE ARABIAN NIGHTS THE ENVIOUS AND THE GRACIOUS - 7

Oh...this wealth.... If my wealth has brought so much misery to another man, of what use is it? I don't need wealth. I only want my neighbour to be happy.

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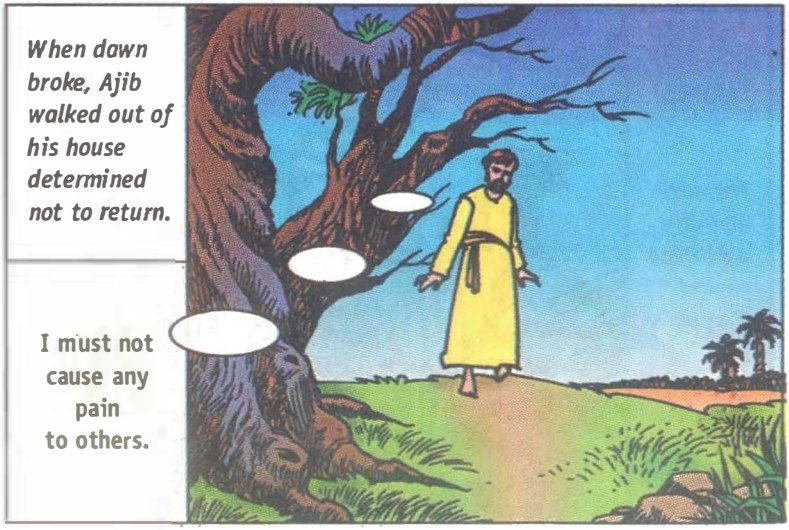

THE ARABIAN NIGHTS THE ENVIOUS AND THE GRACIOUS - 8

By evening, he came to an old well.

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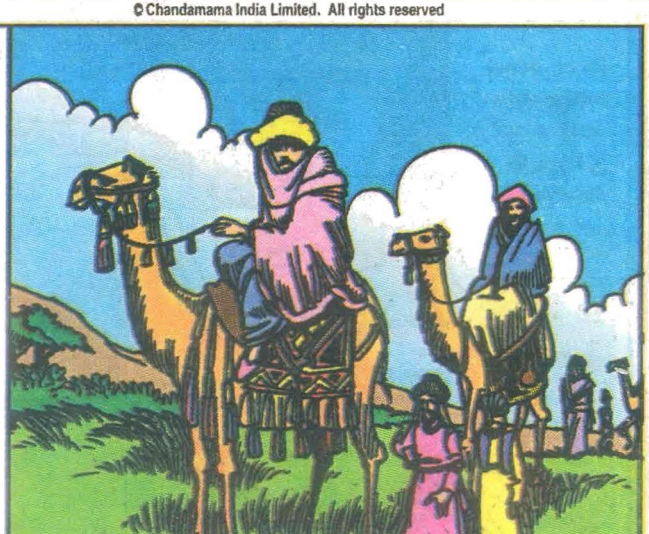
The next morning, a caravan passed that way.



As they neared the well, the merchants in the caravan saw a figure huddled there. And the figure looked familiar.

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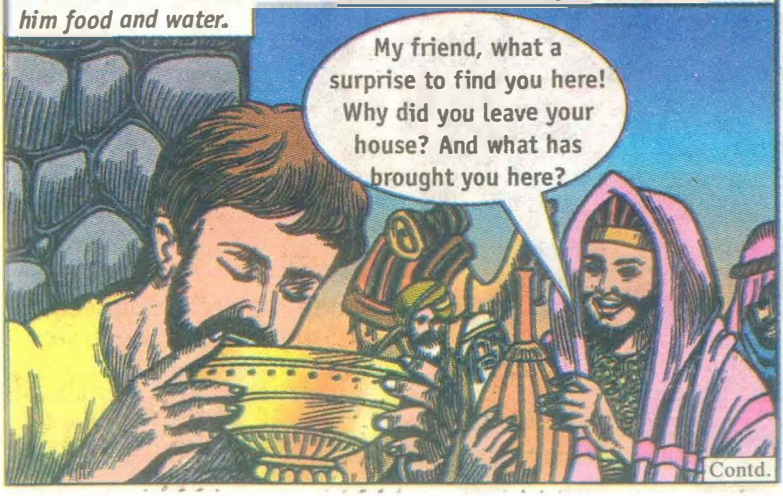
Some of the merchants in the caravan recognised Ajib. They gave him food and water.



The Adventures of Robin Hood

Long ago, when Richard I was ruling England, a large part of the land was covered with dense forests where animals ran wild. All the game in these forests was regarded as the king's property, and the commoners were forbidden from hunting. The king had appointed guards, known as foresters, to catch and punish those who tried to shoot the game.

The most famous of the forests was Sherwood Forest where the king often went to hunt deer. In this forest, there lived a band of daring men who were branded as outlaws. They had done something against the laws of the land, and had been forced to hide themselves in the woods to save their lives. There they spent time roaming about among the trees, in hunting the king's deer, and in robbing rich travellers who came that way.

There were nearly a hundred of these outlaws, and their leader was a bold fellow called Robin Hood.

They wore dresses green in colour and were armed with bows and arrows; sometimes they carried long wooden lances and swords, which they handled adeptly. After a robbery, the booty was brought and laid before Robin Hood, whom they considered their king. He then divided it fairly among them, giving to each man his just share. Right from his teens he had been an expert archer, who carried off all the prizes in shooting competitions; moreover, he was quick-witted and merry. His fairness and generosity endeared him to all those who knew him.

But how had such a man come to be an outlaw? Ah, therein hangs a tale!

As a youth of eighteen, Robin heard of a shooting match proclaimed by the Sheriff of Nottingham. A barrel of ale was being offered as the prize for the best archer. Robin was eager to match his skills against the finest archers in the land. Taking his strong yew bow and arrows, he set out from his native Locksley to Nottingham by the path that led through Sherwood Forest.

It was a beautiful summer day. The forest was a riot of colours, for, beautiful flowers bloomed at every turn. The air was heady with their fragrance, and Robin's heart

sang as he strode briskly through the forest.

Suddenly, he came across a party of foresters sitting under a great oak tree. There were fifteen of them. In their midst was a foaming barrel of ale, and they were busy eating pies and helping themselves to large glasses of ale.

As Robin passed them, one of them, who was somewhat the worse for drink, called out, "Hello, boy! Where are you going with your toy bow and cheap arrows?"

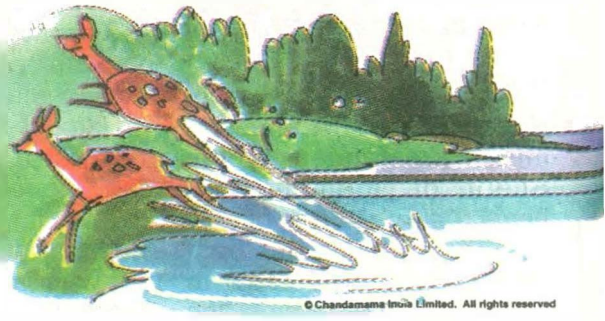
The taunt cut Robin to the quick. He retorted, "My bow and arrows are every bit as good as yours. Moreover, I'm going to the shooting match at Nottingham Town, which has been announced by our good Sheriff of Nottinghamshire. There, I shall compete with other archers for the prize – which is a barrel of fine ale. Come and watch me in action if you wish!"

At this, one of the foresters, who was holding a glass of ale, burst out laughing and cried, "Ho, ho, just listen to the lad! Boy, you look like a baby on whose lips the milk has hardly dried, and still you prattle about competing with grown up men – and fine archers at that! – at the Nottingham shooting match! You would not even be able to draw one string of a two-stone bow."

"And what would the infant do with the ale, even if he did win it? Drink it along with his milk?" jeered another.

The men's sneering tone and words made Robin's blood boil. Struggling to keep his cool, he declared, "I'm ready to wager twenty marks that by Our Lady's grace, I can hit any target from a distance of sixty rods!"

Hearing this, all the foresters burst out laughing. One of them called out, "What a fine boast, little boy! And it's quite safe, too, for you know that there's no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target near at hand for you to make good your wager!"

Now Robin lost his temper. "Look, all of you," he said angrily. "See that herd of deer there, at the glade's end? I'm sure you agree that the herd is more than sixty rods away from here. I'll bet you twenty pounds that, shooting from here, I shall kill the best hart in the herd by Our Lady's grace!"

"Now, that's more like it!" shouted the forester who had spoken first. "I'll take your bet; here are twenty pounds. I wager that you won't be able to hit any of the deer – with or without the aid of Our Lady!"

"And all the rest of us, too, will give twenty pounds each if you manage it!" cried another forester, as the others nodded in agreement.

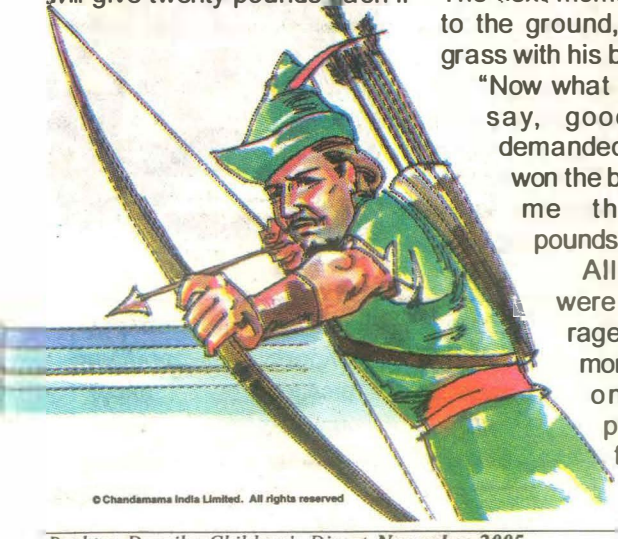
"Very well," said Robin. He stood up straight and tall, and took up his bow. Holding it with its tip upon his instep, he deftly strung it. Taking up his arrow, he put it to the bow, drawing it backward so that the grey feathered end touched his ear. The next moment, the bowstring rang and the arrow sped down the glade like a hawk soaring through the wind.

The derision of the watching foresters turned to incredulity as they saw an enormous hart, in the distance, leap into the air as the arrow plunged into his side. The next moment, he crashed to the ground, reddening the grass with his blood.

"Now what do you have to say, good foresters?" demanded Robin. "I have won the bet, and you owe me three hundred pounds."

All the foresters were now filled with rage, and none was more angry than the one who had placed the bet first.

(To continue)



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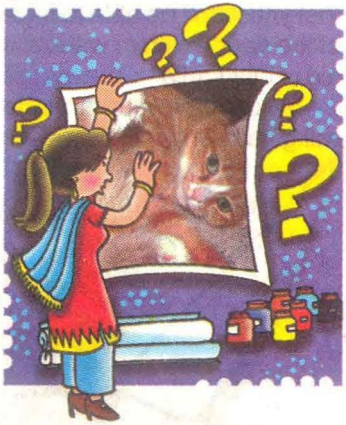
Interior Decor Puzzle

Four friends - Chitra, Maya, Sunanda and Vidya - joined a short-term course in interior decoration. When they completed the course, they were eager to test their newly-acquired skills by redecorating one room each in their respective houses. Surprisingly, each selected not only a different room to redo, but a different colour and style scheme as well. Determine the name of each friend, what room each redid, and the main colours and theme of each redone room.

1. The person who redecorated the bedroom used a floral theme. Chitra did not choose blue and purple as her main colours.
2. The study was not redone in a forest theme. Maya didn't decide on a nautical theme.
3. The kitchen was redone in black and white. Sunanda did not redo her bedroom.
4. The room that was redone in a nautical theme used blue and purple colours.
5. Chitra loves cats, so it was easy to choose a theme. Maya did not redo the kitchen. Sunanda's main colours were not green and yellow.
6. Vidya decided on brown and orange for the colours of her new room. The living room was not redone in a nautical theme. Vidya did not use a floral theme.



Solution

Person	Room	Theme	Colours
Chitra	Kitchen	Cats	Black and white
Maya	Bedroom	Floral	Green and yellow
Sunanda	Study	Nautical	Blue and purple
Vidya	Living room	Forest	Brown and orange

Answers

SLYLOCK FOX

Solution: Slylock advised the foreman to lift the tiles off the ground with the crane, and leave them suspended high and out of reach.

CROSSWORD

Across:
1. Cerebrum 5. Adds 6. Stork 9. Haste 12. Cage 13. Renovate

Down:
1. Colt 2. Roar 3. Radius 4. Mosque 6. Soccer 7. Oxygen 8. Kph 10. Alma 11. Tide

QUIZTIME

1. Queen Elizabeth I
2. Christmas Orchid
3. Abebe Bikila
4. Single number
5. Jallianwalla Bagh Massacre
6. George Bernard Shaw - Nobel Prize: 1925, Oscar: 1939 - Best Screenplay.
7. Malta
8. Prado Museum, Madrid
9. Imhotep
10. Icarus
11. The Darjeeling - Himalayan Railway
12. Polonium in honour of Poland
13. The present fifty states of the USA and the thirteen original colonies.

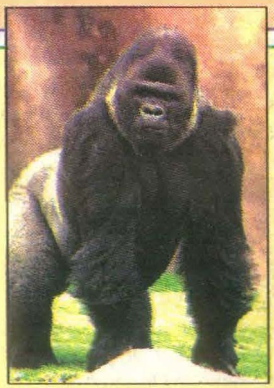
TRY IT...

Page 74
1) Octopus 2) Mask 3) Lobster 4) Flippers 5) Spear 6) Bottle

Page 80
Door, dog's paw, cat's eyes, ball, girl's mouth and mouse.

Did You Know?

Gorillas are the biggest of the apes. A big male can be 1.7m tall. They look ferocious, but are among the gentlest of creatures. They eat only berries and leaves, and the male only becomes aggressive when a rival male intrudes on his group - even then he only beats his chest and roars.



Towards Better English

Words With Brain!

How do we know what we are doing within our environment? It is the brain that assigns meaning to the words we choose. No wonder the ***brain*** involves word associations and influences our expressive language.

The word ***brain*** when joined with another word gets a figurative meaning. Compound words like ***brainwash, brainteaser*** and ***brainwave*** do not refer to the skull, but carry a figurative sense.

Very often we hear people say that a propaganda or a speech has brainwashed many. It is said that the word ***brainwashing*** is a literal translation of the Chinese word *xi nao* which means to persuade someone or a group of people, often forcibly.

When we are posed with a difficult problem to solve, we call it a ***brainteaser***. Riddles, jigsaw puzzles, crossword puzzles and conundrums are all brainteasers as they raise questions for solution.

When we have a flash of intuition, don't we claim that we had a ***brainwave***? This clear, sudden and brilliant understanding of a complex situation often offers an enlightening experience. But for the brainwave of man, civilization and technology would have been impossible.

Persons who became words

George Boole

George Boole was a mathematician and philosopher. As the inventor of Boolean algebra, which is the basis of all modern computer arithmetic, Boole is regarded as one of the founders of the field of computer science. Born on November 2, 1815 in the English industrial town of Lincoln, Boole authored numerous abstruse papers on mathematical topics, and three or four distinct publications which have later become standard works. He came up with a type of linguistic algebra, the three most basic operations of which were (and still are) **AND**, **OR** and **NOT**. It was these three functions that formed the basis of his premise, and were the only operations necessary to perform comparisons or basic mathematical functions. He died on December 8, 1864.